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Republicans open do-or-die convention

HOUSTON (R) — Amid a stream of bleak polls and a simmering crisis with Iraq, the U.S. Republican party opened its convention on Monday, a four-day meeting that will send George Bush on the road to a second term or into political oblivion. The 2,210 delegates from the party that traces its roots to Abraham Lincoln were called to order inside a massive red, white, and blue festooned sports arena where Mr. Bush will formally accept the nomination on Thursday night. Analysts agreed Mr. Bush could still stop the free fall that has put him far behind Democrat Bill Clinton — provided he starts right now to convince voters he is a "born again" new Bush. Full of fight, brimming with ideas, ready to stage a miracle rally beyond anything seen in modern U.S. politics (see page 8).

Solh holds election talks in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Solh held talks on Monday with Syria's Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam on Lebanon's elections, officials said. Leading Christian supporters of President Elias Hrawi, including Foreign Minister Faris Bouez, earlier on Monday called on the Lebanese government to postpone the polls due to start on Aug. 23. Lebanon's main Christian groups have called for a boycott of the polls, which they want held only after Syria redeploy its troops in eastern Lebanon in September.

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Tunisian prosecutors seek more death penalties

TUNIS (AP) — The prosecution Monday requested the death penalty for nine more of the 279 Muslim fundamentalists on trial for allegedly plotting to overthrow the government. The request came before a military court trying 100 suspects, including the alleged leader of the conspiracy, Mohammed Habib Lassoud, and about 30 soldiers. Closing arguments have begun in a separate trial of 171 leaders and supporters of the outlawed fundamentalist movement Al Nahda. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for 19 of the defendants in that trial. Defence attorneys claimed that the government is conducting politically motivated trials to stamp out Al Nahda.

France, Kuwait to sign defence pact

PARIS (AP) — The defence ministers of Kuwait and France are to sign a military cooperation accord Tuesday calling for joint exercises in the Gulf region, French officials said Monday. The Kuwaiti minister, Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem, embarked for Paris on Monday and was expected to meet with his French counterpart, Pierre Joxe, on Tuesday afternoon. French officials said the accord envisions joint military exercises and the participation of Kuwait officers in training programmes in France.

Musa to visit Algiers

ALGIERS (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa is due in Algiers on Tuesday for a two-day official visit, the Algerian Foreign Ministry said on Monday. A ministry statement said Mr. Musa would discuss bilateral relations, Middle East affairs, and the non-aligned summit scheduled for next month. It will be the first visit by an Egyptian foreign minister since March 1989.

Sharon hospitalised

TEL AVIV (R) — Ariel Sharon, architect of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon and one of the driving forces behind its settlement drive in the occupied Arab territories, was hospitalised Monday for surgery to remove gall stones. A hospital spokesman said the 61-year-old minister led the former Likud government's Jewish settlement boom, was readmitted to Tel Hashomer hospital near Tel Aviv after undergoing a series of tests last month.

Ethiopian emigres protest in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Some 600 Ethiopian Jews, including women with babies on their backs, on Monday marched in summer heat to push demands for permanent housing. They broke off their protest after walking 30 kilometres when Immigration Absorption Minister Yair Tshaban promised to send a ministry team to check-out their problems. The immigrants came to Israel in May 1991 in an airlift of some 14,000 Ethiopian Jews. Since then, the newcomers and some 4,000 later arrivals, have been living in trailer parks and crowded hotel rooms. The Ethiopians are considered as quiet, undemanding immigrants, and their protest was seen as a sign of successful adaptation to Israeli ways.

Sunnis say Shites killed Zia

ISLAMABAD (R) — Sunni Muslims chanting slogans accusing the Shiite sect of killing Pakistan's military President Mohammed Zia Ul Haq four years ago forced Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to abandon a memorial speech on Monday. A crowd from the majority Sunni sect joined a rally at General Zia's graveside to mark the fourth anniversary of his death. They attacked the Shites as infidels, and charged that they murdered the president. "Shites are not Muslims, all are Muslims," Mr. Sharif said in an appeal to the crowd not to create a rift between sects. The crowd ignored Mr. Sharif, forcing him to cut short his speech to the rally of several thousand people.

Coalition steps up pressure on Iraq

U.N. says more weapon programmes found; allies to ban Iraqi fights in south

Combined agency dispatches

The American-led anti-Iraq coalition Monday stepped up pressure on Iraq by revealing plans to ban Iraqi planes from flying in the south of the country.

At the U.N., a spokesman said U.N. weapons team which has just finished inspecting a number of facilities in Iraq found significant new information about the country's ballistic missile programmes.

The 22-member team did not visit any Iraqi government ministries because it had no need to do so this time, he added. The New York Times said earlier that the team was scheduled to demand access Monday morning to the Ministry of Military Industrialisation as part of a plan to provoke a confrontation that could lead to new bombing of Iraq.

Iraq objected when another U.N. team tried to inspect Baghdad's Ministry of Agriculture last month. That resulted in a three-week standoff that ended only after members of the Gulf war coalition threatened to use force, and the United Nations agreed to

include experts from coalition countries among team members who actually entered the ministry building. No contraband was found when it was eventually inspected.

The spokesman for the U.N. special commission in charge of scrapping Iraq weapons of mass destruction, Tim Trevan, said the latest team "found significant additional information concerning the ballistic missiles programmes."

He declined to identify the sites visited and said he did not yet know the total number.

"They were not denied access to any of the sites they sought and they visited all the sites they were tasked with prior to their departure for Baghdad," he added.

Mr. Trevan said Iraq had three major missile programmes: The extended Scud missile, called the Al Hussein, with a range of about 500 kilometres, the two-stage Al Badr-2000 missile with a range of 1,000 to 1,500 kilometres and a one-ton payload and the three-stage Al Abid, capable of launching satellites or reentry vehicles.

(Continued on page 5)

Bush plans 'strong response' to Baghdad

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R) — President George Bush said on Monday the United States has "strong responses" planned if Iraq refuses to adhere strictly to Gulf war ceasefire terms.

In an interview with CNN, Mr. Bush said he was "deeply offended" by a New York Times report on Sunday saying the United States wanted to provoke a confrontation with Iraq this week to provide the president a political boost during the Republican national convention in Houston.

But he added: "Of course we have responses planned and they are strong responses" if Iraq does not provide access to government ministry buildings to U.N. inspectors.

King heads for check-ups in U.S.

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein left Monday for specialist medical treatment in the United States following a minor haemorrhage in his urinary tract.

The King, admitted to the King Hussein Medical Centre Saturday, told reporters before leaving for Washington that he was feeling fine.

"I think things are much better than they were a couple of days ago," said the King, who flew the helicopter that took him from the medical centre to the airport.

"It had been found that it is important for me... to have some more specialised attention in terms of investigation," he added.

"It is just a short stay away and I hope to be back soon amongst the people I love."

King Hussein said he was overwhelmed by the deep affection of the Jordanian people and their concern over his health.

"I feel unable to express my deep feelings towards my people in whom I take pride and the concern they expressed for me"

he said. The 56-year-old King was accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, as well as a team of physicians headed by his private doctor, Samir Farraj, a dermatologist and internist.

A Royal Court statement said on Sunday that doctors had advised the King to go to the United States for further tests in a more specialised clinic.

It said the King's health was good and reassuring.

The King, who looked relaxed and in good spirits, was at the controls of his personal plane as it left the airport.

The King's 11 children, members of the Royal family and government ministers were among hundreds of well-wishers who gave him an emotional farewell at the airport.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in to serve as Regent during the absence of the King.

The King celebrated the 40th anniversary of his accession to the throne on Tuesday.



Her Royal Highness Princess Raya Bint Al Hussein embraces her father as she bids him farewell upon his departure on Monday for medical check-ups in the U.S. (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

House investigations panel demands powers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The work of the Investigations Committee of the Lower House of Parliament came under scrutiny in a House's session Monday. Several deputies including the head of the committee Laith Shbeilat, spoke about investigation procedures. The committee has presented a second report to the House on which discussion is continuing.

The report, as delivered by Mr. Shbeilat, said that the committee had sent memos to a number of senior officials requesting information on what he described as administrative and financial violations.

The report said that among the main difficulties faced by the committee was the failure on the part of these officials to provide the requested information.

The report said that the House had entrusted the committee's chairman with the powers nor-

mally given to the prosecutor general but that his work was impeded and could not be implemented.

It called for enlisting the help of the minister of justice who would inform the concerned judicial authorities of the Parliament decision so that these authorities can respond to the requests of the committee and its head, particularly in matters connected with summoning suspects and witnesses for investigation.

The committee is unable to accomplish this step and collect information and therefore it requested that its chairman be authorised to act on the committee's behalf and gather the necessary information enjoying the powers of the general prosecutor.

The committee's report said the government should have responded favourably to the committee's requests, noting that the

cases referred to the committee were sent back to the House by the prosecutor general on the grounds that they were not under his jurisdiction since accusation or indictment of ministers falls under Parliament's authority. The cases in question were the Azraq-Al Jafir road, the Swaga prison, the Abu Neir Housing Estate and government purchases of rice, meat and barley.

According to Mr. Shbeilat, the prosecutor general examined nine cases and found that four ministers were involved and when he was about to issue an indictment he was told by the minister of justice that he could not do that against a former or a serving minister since it was the task of Parliament.

The cases were sent back to Parliament according to the provisions of the Constitution, Mr. Shbeilat said. He criticised Deputy Ahmad Oweidi Abadi for failing to submit documents which he had promised to produce to help in the course of investigations.

The report demanded that a statute be worked out for the Council of Ministers, and the Cabinet's agenda and minutes of its meetings.

Deputy Abdul Majid Shreideh told the House that the Investigations Committee draws its authority from the general rules. He said the committee's work had been authorised only to examine in detail issues of cases referred to it like the fiscal budget and treaties etc but had no right to launch investigations.

Deputy Hosni Shiyab told the House that dealing with "corruption" requires two important approaches: A "clinical" treatment and a "preventive" treatment. The first means the committee should deal with the cases. But he noted that Parliament had neglected the second approach, which requires a revision of the regulations and legislation which created the atmosphere for corruption to occur.

More food reaches Somalia but not enough

MOGADISHU (AP) — More food is reaching this desperate land, but it is still not enough to save the 1.5 million Somalis in danger of starving, aid officials say.

And the shipments would not help the neediest unless complemented by increased security, medicines, trucks and planes, they add.

In the Indian Ocean capital of Mogadishu, and in coastal towns such as Merca, Brava and Kisumu, food deliveries now arrive steadily.

In Mogadishu, the price at the open air market for a 50-kilogramme bag of rice has dropped in recent weeks from \$80 to 15, evidence of growing supplies. But security remains difficult in Mogadishu, as young gunmen hijack and loot delivery trucks filled with huge amounts of food. The starvation is most severe in

remote interior towns such as Baidoa and Bardera, where scarce vehicles and roads make distribution extremely difficult. Thirty people were reported killed Sunday in Baidoa after fighting erupted over the looting of food.

Also Sunday, armed Somalis in vehicles fitted with artillery guns attacked the port at Kismayu where the World Food Programme (WFP) was unloading a relief ship. They stole 100 tonnes of food and barrels of fuel imported to move the emergency aid, according to WFP official Trevor Page.

The United Nations says as many as 1.5 million people could die in coming weeks, almost a quarter of the Somali population. An estimated 30,000 tonnes of food are needed each month, and

Kabul, rebels put out claims of battle gains

KABUL (Agencies) — A night-long rocket duel between rebel forces and pro-government troops ended early Monday with Defence Ministry officials claiming to have repulsed the attack. But rebel sources said the dissidents captured a strategic hill south of the city early on Monday.

Hezb-e-Islami fighters seized the important Tapa Taj Bik hill near the Defence Ministry in a night of fierce street battles when the rattle of Kalashnikovs echoed around the south and east of Kabul, said the sources in Pakistani border town of Peshawar.

"It was a very bad night. There was heavy rocketing from seven to midnight," said the source, in wireless contact with the battered capital. He had no reports on the latest number of casualties in a week of fighting that has left

hundreds of civilians dead and many injured.

"We captured all important posts around the Ministry of Defence, and it might fall very soon," Hezb spokesman Sargul Speen said. "We have tightened our circle... and the notorious militia are running out of ammunition."

For a week, Hezb-forces have been pounding the capital with rockets in what most Afghans say is a shameful bid for power.

There were no immediate reports of casualties Monday, but estimates about 700 people have died since Hezb leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar launched his offensive one week ago.

The three-month-old government expelled Mr. Hekmatyar and his fundamentalist Hezb

(Continued on page 5)

Field seen 'wide open' as two districts go to by-elections today

Qweismeh and Madaba polls key tests of strength

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Residents of two southern districts of Amman go to the polls today to fill vacant parliamentary seats in all "wide open" by-elections that could be the last major test of political strength in the country before next year's general elections. The by-elections will seek to replace the two vacant seats for Madaba and Qweismeh in the Lower House.

Compounding what appears to be an already confusing election in which "party" lines have been broken by religious and tribal affiliation, the slogans raised by the 10 candi-

dates running for the two seats appear very similar if not the same.

Despite early predictions that the Muslim Brotherhood candidate for the Fourth District (Qweismeh) would win the elections, many observers now say that the race is still wide open.

The Brotherhood's candidate, Hani Tahrawi, a former mayor of the industrial town of Sahab, is expected to win at least 4000 votes. The expected number of votes that the Brotherhood's candidate is expected to get is based on the number of votes received by the movement's candidate in the district in the 1989 elections.

The candidate to take the most votes at the time was the late Nayef Hadid, who won over 6,000 votes. Members of the Brotherhood now say Mr. Hadid had the Brotherhood's backing at the time, a claim that Mr. Hadid's aides deny.

The voters who have picked up their ballot cards number 20,500, according to the deputy of the head of the Qweismeh municipality, Hashem Waked. "Up to 35,000 people could vote on Tuesday," Mr. Waked told the Jordan Times Monday, saying that even those voters who had not picked up voters cards could vote if their voting cards were still valid. The election results in the district could not be predicted

and many observers felt that both former mayor of Sahab Mirweir Abu Zaid and Azwar Al Hadid still had a "good chance of defeating Mr. Tahrawi."

"It basically depends on the voter turn-out. If the turnout is high, the non-Islamist candidates have a better chance in all districts because the Brotherhood's supporters will turnout first thing in the morning; they are better organised than the others," said an official at the Qweismeh municipality who asked to remain anonymous.

In the Fourth District, like in the Madaba area (Sixth District), tribal politics are cutting across party lines to a greater

extent than in the last elections, according to political observers.

"All these predictions that Mr. Tahrawi will win is a direct challenge to the tribes," said one observer.

"The challenge itself is, in and of itself a reason to vote for many people," pointed out another observer.

The election results in the Fourth District will also be difficult to predict because there are seven candidates, all using slogans of national unity and anti-sectarianism.

The slogans in Madaba are basically the same as those in Qweismeh, although there are only three candidates. The three, observers in Madaba say, have an approximately equal chance of winning de-

spite an apparent early lead by Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mohammed Khreibat and Fawaz Abu Al Ghanem.

The third candidate, Abdul Hafid Shakhaneh, has the strong backing of his Bani Hamida tribe, estimated to have some 5,000 votes.

The main reason that Mr. Shakhaneh is expected to receive no votes from his opponents' tribe, which includes both Mr. Khreibat and Mr. Abu Ghanem, is that one Bani Hamida member already sits in the Lower House.

Thus tribal affiliations are expected to be respected across the board in Madaba and both the Palestinian and Christian votes are likely to be important.

Both groups, one regional and one religious, have a maximum of 4,000 votes, half of which are sure to be cast.

The majority of the Christian votes is expected to go to Mr. Abu Ghanem, with a minority of the votes going to Mr. Shakhaneh and none going to the Brotherhood candidate.

On the other hand the Palestinian vote is expected to be split between Mr. Khreibat and Mr. Shakhaneh, with the majority of those votes going to Mr. Khreibat.

Polling stations are expected to close at 7 p.m. but extensions to that deadline are usually given.

Tentative results should be available in the early morning hours of Wednesday.

DFLP leader urges Arabs to suspend peace talks until after U.S. presidential polls

By Sana Attieh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A prominent Palestinian leader on Monday challenged Palestinian and Arab leaders to act upon decision taken in Tunis by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership and by the five Arab foreign ministers in Damascus last month following Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's victory in the Israeli general elections.

Secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Nayef Hawatmeh believes that one way of doing that is by suspending Arab participation in the Middle East negotiations until after the U.S. presidential elections to be held in November, "victims of the U.S. presidential elections campaign," particularly after the U.S. granted Israel \$10 billion in loan guarantees.

The PLO leadership's decision last month in Tunis included linking the American loan guarantees to the freezing of all settlement activities in the occupied territories or to suspend the participation in the sixth round of bilateral talks due to be held in Washington on Aug. 24.

The five foreign ministers' decision at the Damascus meeting in July — which included the PLO, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt — called for a halt to all settlement activity in occupied territories.

"We the Palestinian people and the Arabs must not become the victims (of the American presidential elections campaign)," Mr. Hawatmeh said. He said that a press conference at the Regency Hotel after concluding a week-long visit to Jordan.

The Palestinian leader, whose organisation supports negotiations with Israel but on the basis of better terms than those obtained under the Madrid formula, insisted that President George Bush had granted Israel the loan guarantees without an Israeli commitment to freeze all settlements in the occupied territories — an admission made by Mr. Rabin after his Washington visit — as part of his presidential campaign to gain the American Jewish votes.

Mr. Bush, who has been losing support to his Democratic challenger Bill Clinton in the run-up to the November elections, last week approved the loan guarantees to Israel during Mr. Rabin's visit to Washington.

Secretary of State James Baker, who will leave the State Department on Aug. 23 to Mr. Bush's elections campaign, said in Amman during a July visit to the region that the U.S. administration did not agree with Mr. Rabin's classification of "security and political" settlements.

"Settlements are settlements... and we make no differentiation between the security and political settlements," Mr. Baker had said at the time.

Mr. Hawatmeh said the Palestinians and Arabs had nothing to lose



Nayef Hawatmeh

by suspending their participation in the Middle East peace talks until after the U.S. elections, but may be able to gain an American and Israeli commitment to freeze the settlements in return for the loan guarantees.

"We demand the suspension of the negotiations until after the U.S. election so as not to become victims of Rabin's blackmail and his influence on the American administration," Mr. Hawatmeh said, expecting a new administration to take months after the November elections to restart American efforts in the Middle East.

He also said that Mr. Baker's departure from the State Department would negatively affect the negotiations because of his successor's (Lawrence Eagleburger) "enthusiastic support for Israel."

Mr. Hawatmeh insisted that Mr. Rabin was able to take advantage of the U.S. presidential elections campaign by pressuring the administration. So can the Palestinians and Arabs unite in their position not to participate until the settlements come to a stop, he said.

"We, too, have the power of pressure on the American administration during its elections campaign," Mr. Hawatmeh maintained. "By not participating in the Aug. 24 negotiations, no steps forward can be taken in the peace process without us."

The Palestinian leader described the Palestinian and Arab decision whether or not to participate in the sixth round of talks as a "test of credibility," adding that if the Arabs did not commit themselves to the Tunis and Damascus resolutions, then "we would fail once again."

Mr. Hawatmeh was referring to PLO approval of taking part in the peace talks with limited representation from the West Bank (excluding Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip, and excluding the PLO.

He also called for an emergency PLO leadership meeting to determine what steps to take in compliance with the decisions taken last month.

The PLO had decided to demand broader representation in the Palestinian delegation to include those from

the diaspora and from Jerusalem, and an Israeli commitment to freeze all settlement activities in the occupied territories or suspend the talks. It also seeks the basis of the negotiations to be Security Council resolutions 242, 338 and exchanging land for peace, guarantees for Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories and application of the Geneva conventions, Israeli acceptance in principle of Resolution 194.

Mr. Hawatmeh warned that if the Arabs — particularly the Palestinians — did not abide by the July resolutions and attended the next round of talks without a commitment to halt the settlements, then there would be further political divisions among the Palestinians, especially in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and deeper divisions among the Arabs.

Mr. Hawatmeh also predicted that such participation — "without considering the new Israeli developments" — would encourage Mr. Rabin to push for more Palestinian and Arab concessions.

The DFLP chief, who described the Jewish settlements as "a cancer eating away the land, where there would be no land left to negotiate after three or four years," urged the Arab sides to adopt a new negotiating strategy to confront the new Israeli strategy.

"There is an opportunity now to unite everyone within this new framework for a new Palestinian and Arab negotiating strategy to confront Rabin's new strategy," Mr. Hawatmeh said.

On the dispute between him and the split in the DFLP, Mr. Hawatmeh refused to comment specifically on PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's failed effort on Sunday to end the bitter feud between his wing and Yasser Arafat's breakaway DFLP faction, but said he rejected the "interference of certain factions in the internal affairs of other factions."

He implicitly criticised Mr. Arafat for extending support for Mr. Arafat, who heads the PLO Information Department in Tunis. "The interference of a faction in the affairs of another faction and efforts to protect other factions will not benefit anyone," Mr. Hawatmeh said.

Mr. Arafat, who was Mr. Hawatmeh's deputy, broke away from the DFLP last year after years of clashes between the two sides. But the bitterness grew, especially after Mr. Arafat insisted on keeping the DFLP title for his group.

"Any group that departs from its organisations must deal with it in a democratic spirit," Mr. Hawatmeh said. "Because when it is a minority, it must act democratically and adopt a new title and announce its positions without making trouble."

He added that any group that split from its original faction did so voluntarily, and "anyone who cannot coexist with the political and organisational trends inside the faction can take his own road and announce it under his own title."

Clinton says no chance of split with Bush on Iraq

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — Democratic challenger Bill Clinton made clear on Sunday there was no chance of a split between him and President George Bush over how to deal with the crisis over Iraq.

In his first comment on reports that military action might be imminent against Iraq, Mr. Clinton said Iraq must comply with U.N. ceasefire provisions and he would not second-guess any decisions made by President Bush.

"All I know is the reports. But I have stated clearly, repeatedly, that we have to expect and demand and insist that Saddam Hussein comply with the ceasefire agreements. And I don't think we should rule out military force and that decision has to be made by Mr. Bush," Mr. Clinton said after jogging on Sunday evening.

"We only have one president at a time. It (decision) should be made in cooperation with the U.N. based on the findings of the

U.N. as to Saddam Hussein's compliance," Mr. Clinton said.

Asked to comment on charges Mr. Bush might initiate a military action in Iraq for political reasons, Mr. Clinton said: "I'm not going to second-guess the tactical judgement about whether and when to use force now... we know of no example where the commander-in-chief has used or would use the awesome power of military action for political purposes."

"I think that we just have to wait and see what happens, and I want my position to be clear. I've also said and I say again, Saddam Hussein must comply and we can't rule out the use of force. It ought to be done in cooperation with the U.N. and I would think that they would have something to say about the timing," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Clinton was taking the day off on Sunday after a three-day campaign swing in California for the November election.

Israel says it wants to evict settlers from Jerusalem houses

Gate of the walled Old City, were confiscated by the defence ministry in 1969 for security purposes.

She said the state attorney filed suit against the settlers on Sunday in court, saying confiscation was legal under emergency laws enacted by the British mandate authority in 1945.

Ateret Cohanim spokesman Mati Dan told Israel Radio that the group had purchased rights to the houses in 1988 from the original Palestinian owners.

But Mr. Eshed said any such purchase would have been "of no importance at all" because of the 1969 confiscation.

Mr. Dan said the settlers decided to move into the building in February 1991, after the body of Elhanan Attal, a Jewish religious seminary student, was found on the premises. But prior to the move two weeks ago, the buildings were unoccupied.

Mr. Dan said the group intended to use the buildings as a clinic and a security outpost. The Damascus Gate area has been the site of stabbing attacks on Jews during the 4½-year Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

Rabbi Benny Ailon, a settler supporter, told Israel Radio that having the buildings occupied by Jews would provide security.

"In places where there is Jewish existence, there is Jewish protection and you feel better," he said. "You feel you are not walking in Baghdad."

Justice Ministry spokeswoman Etti Eshed said the two buildings in question, near the Damascus

U.N. to resume airlift to Juba

NAIROBI (AP) — The United Nations said Monday it would resume its food airlift to starving people in the southern Sudanese capital of Juba, but rebels said the agency would do so at its own risk.

U.N. Ambassador Darko Silovic said the relief flights, suspended on July 18 because of heavy fighting in Juba, would be resumed Wednesday with the full cooperation of the insurgents.

But a rebel spokesman, who met with U.N. officials before their announcement, said there was "not an inch of truth" to Mr. Silovic's claims.

"I told him there was no agreement to go into Juba and that whoever goes at their own risk," said Elijah Malok, director of a relief association run by the rebels.

Bob Koepf, whose Lutheran World Federation has been sending relief flights into Juba since 1988 and also has been unable to deliver supplies to the city since July 18, said the security threat was serious.

"We flew into Juba for three and a half years with no permission at all" when the insurgents lacked the firepower to shoot down airplanes, said Mr. Koepf. "If we don't fly now, you know there's a problem and we won't move an inch without the rebels' permission."

In the last month, the insurgents have shot down three government aircraft, killing nearly 200 people. They say they have heavy artillery trained on Juba's airstrip at all times.

"Nobody can go into Juba without the approval of Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) troops," said Mr. Malok.

The United Nations lost the rebels' cooperation and trust last month when Sudan's government in Khartoum misused a U.N. plane by using it to ferry troops and material to Juba.

The United Nations subsequently moved its Juba relief operation to Entebbe, Uganda.

Mr. Malok said the insurgents wanted to meet with the United Nations and government officials to try to work out an agreement in which Juba's civilians could evacuate the city and go to nearby U.N.-supervised areas of safety.

Sudan's relief agency, the Sudanese Commission for Relief and Rehabilitation, issued a statement Sunday rejecting the rebel proposal, which was made public last week by charities in London.

Mr. Silovic said he would be going to Khartoum on Tuesday for talks with government officials.

Juba is a government-held garrison town and provincial capital. Most of southern Sudan's countryside has been won by the insurgents since they took up arms in 1983. They seek greater autonomy and economic development for the predominantly Christian and African south.

The rebels have had Juba under siege since early July, following the collapse of peace talks between the combatants in June in Nigeria.

Because of the civil war, Juba has been unreachable. The city's 300,000 people are facing the threat of imminent starvation, said Mr. Silovic, assistant to U.N. under-secretary General Jan Eliasson, head of the U.N. Department of Humanitarian Assistance.

"There is no food left: medicines and supplementary foods are virtually non-existent. Reports indicate sharp increases in levels of malnutrition and malnutrition-related diseases," said Mr. Silovic. "If immediate assistance is not provided, large-scale deaths will soon follow."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. Harrier jet crashes in Kuwait

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — A U.S. navy harrier jet fighter has crashed in Kuwait and its pilot was killed, the navy said Monday. It was the second incident involving casualties that American forces have suffered during their current war games in the emirate. The harrier crashed on Aug. 8 lost an AH-1W Cobra helicopter and its two crewmen were killed. A statement from the public affairs office of the U.S. naval forces central command said the unnamed AV-8B harrier crashed at 8:30 p.m. Sunday (1730 GMT). The single pilot aboard was on a routine mission as part of Fager Mace 92-93, joint exercises with Kuwaiti forces that began earlier this month. The crash occurred approximately 80 kilometres northwest of Kuwait City and approximately 16 kilometres from the Kuwait-Iraq border, according to the statement. The cause of the crash was under investigation. In the Aug. 8 incident, the Marine helicopter was at a training site 12 kilometres south of the Kuwait-Iraq border. Details of the investigation into that incident have not yet been reported.

Road crash kills 13 in Western Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Thirteen people were killed and four others injured when a passenger minibus collided with a truck on Monday in Turkey's western province of Usak, the semi-official Anatolian news agency reported.

Refugees kept in open after Nairobi roundup

NAIROBI (R) — More than a thousand Somali refugees rounded up by Kenyan police spent the night in an open field near Nairobi with no food or shelter, United Nations officials said. "We were shocked by what we saw. Most of them are women and children... and a baby was born in the open while the U.N. team was there," a team member said. Some of those rounded up were unwell and had come from refugee camps to Nairobi for medical care, he added. After being arrested on Saturday they were taken to local police stations and then to an open field on the outskirts of Nairobi and held under guard. The U.N. said it was pressing the Kenyan authorities to suspend mass round-ups until accommodation is available for those arrested. U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) staff asked the Kenyan authorities on Sunday for permission to move in food and blankets for the refugees. Kenyan police said on Saturday they had arrested 1,550 Somalis who had entered the country without registering as refugees. More were reported rounded up on Sunday.

Iran, Russia sign shipping agreement

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian and Russian transport ministers have signed cooperation agreements setting up a joint shipping company and allowing Russian river use, the Iranian Islamic Republic News Agency reported Sunday. A three-month accord will let Iranian ships use Russia's Volga-Don River system, which links the Caspian and Black seas, according to the report monitored in Cyprus. Mohammad Saeedi-Kya, Iran's minister of roads and transport, and Russian Transportation Minister Vitaly Yefimov also discussed cargo and passenger travel and air transport during their meeting in Tehran, the agency said.

Eritrea's interim ruler pledges democracy

JADDAH (AP) — The leader of Eritrea's provisional government, Issias Afewerki, has pledged that his country would enjoy multi-party democracy after next year's referendum on independence from Ethiopia. "We will have legislative bodies, executive organs and free judicial system. These institutions will protect democracy," Mr. Afewerki told Jeddah's English-language daily Arab News. Voter registration for next April's referendum will start by the end of this month. Close to two million Eritreans above 18 who are living inside the country or abroad are expected to say "yes," an overwhelming majority of the electorate. Mr. Afewerki, interviewed in Asmara, said the referendum results would be announced before next April 15. The Eritreans waged the longest secessionist war on the African continent before gaining their right to a provisional government and an eventual referendum for independence from Ethiopia. Mr. Afewerki, who is also the leader of the ruling and militarily strong Eritrean People's Liberation Front, said the front would dissolve itself immediately after the referendum and would not turn into a political party. He had been at odds with the Gulf states, who supported other rival factions during the 30-year struggle, but said the coming few days would witness a rapprochement. "The kingdom is our nearest neighbour and we are looking for closer ties with it," he said.

S. African firms eager for Gulf trade

DUBAI (R) — South African manufacturers, starved for decades of direct trade with the Arab World because of anti-apartheid sanctions, are queuing up for the chance to exhibit at their country's first trade show in the Middle East. "A New Link: South Africa and the Gulf" is due to open in Dubai in early October. Exhibition organisers say the show was oversubscribed by 40 per cent. "All the exhibitors are new to the region and are looking for trading and joint venture partners," organiser Virginia Kearn said in a statement. The 64 exhibiting firms hoping to break into the Gulf's lucrative market will range from food producers and manufacturers of household goods to industrial producers and mining and engineering firms. The six Arab members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which import most of their food and manufactured goods, have not yet formally lifted sanctions against South Africa last March which showed a majority of whites supported dismantling apartheid, a delegation from Johannesburg visited the Gulf state to encourage trade and set up October's exhibition. Delegates from Dubai's Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Johannesburg in June to give a presentation on investment opportunities in the Gulf.

Egypt cuts security in militant stronghold

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — Security forces have reduced their numbers guarding Muslim militant strongholds in Upper Egypt, security sources say. State security officers at the villages of Manshiet Nasser and Sanaba in Assiut province said about 70 police were guarding the villages, down from a peak of nearly 500 after militants killed 13 Christians and one Muslim there in May. They said police levels were back to normal in the rest of the province. At least 40 people have been killed since March in an upsurge of militant violence, mostly in Assiut.

Algerian crackdown widens to muzzle free-wheeling press

By Rachid Khari
The Associated Press

ALGIERS — The Military-backed government has suspended three free-wheeling newspapers and invoked harsh new press laws, attacking one of the last fruits of a democratic experiment crushed by January's coup d'etat.

The five-man High State Council late Saturday confirmed the suspension, for an unspecified period, of the French-language dailies Le Matin and La Nation and the Arabic Al Djazair Al Youm.

A simultaneous decree appearing in the government's official journal spelled out new powers for authorities to suspend up to six months any enterprise "endangering the public order, security and normal functioning of state institutions."

The laws, adopted by the state of emergency invoked Feb. 9 to smash Islamic fundamentalists, represent a se-

rious blow to the survival of democratic reforms in the country.

The measures bolster the impression that Ali Kafi, a long-time politician who last month replaced the assassinated Mohammad Boudiaf as president of the ruling council, is returning Algeria to iron-fisted rule.

"The rules that will govern relations between the government and press will turn around one sole directive: The interests of Algeria before and above all," said a government communiqué in announcing the suspensions.

The sprouting of dozens of newspapers over the past three years had been one of the most visible signs of democratic reforms former President Chadli Benjedid launched in 1988 to benedict a one-party, Marxist state.

They represented newly state of emergency invoked Feb. 9 to smash Islamic fundamentalists, represent a se-

Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Others, like Le Matin and La Nation, took pride in their independence, making hard-hitting reporting and commentary their weapons to win readers and advertisers.

But since emergency rule was imposed to repress the fundamentalist FIS, Mr. Benjedid's reforms have eroded and the vulnerability of the press made more apparent.

Nearly all the newspapers rely on presses controlled by the government or the former ruling party. Strikes or convenient breakdowns have stopped publications of controversial stories.

Second, a restrictive libel law that prevents, for example, criticism of the programming on state-run television, has kept editors in court as much as in their newsrooms.

These hindrances were apparently deemed insufficient Aug. 8, when the government suspended the three dailies for printing erroneous information

judged dangerous to national interests.

The Association of Algerian Journalists responded Monday with a vote to quit printing pictures of Premier Belaid Abdul Salam.

The measures announced Saturday gave the government a legal basis for the suspensions and serve as a warning to other newspapers.

Le Matin angered the government with a report saying Italy had frozen financial credits to Algeria after a speech by Mr. Abdul Salam indicated Algeria was returning to failed Marxist economic policies.

Rome denied the report. The government called it an "attack on Algeria's higher interests" and also chastised Le Matin for printing the addresses of the security minister and national police chief.

La Nation reported that the spiritual leader of Algeria's nomadic tuaregs, a member of a government advisory council, was arrested for alleged ties to

a Saharan black marketeer.

The Arab-language daily was judged to generally "sow doubt and confusion" in what amounted to an "attack on national unity."

Mr. Kafi has vowed to reaffirm the authority of the state and reinforce security. He was appointed after Mr. Boudiaf's death culminated a new era of violence in Algeria that continues with the nearly daily killings of security forces by armed Islamic bands.

Unknown gunmen killed a police officer Sunday in Constantine, Algeria's third-largest city, the fourth policeman to be killed in eight days. Some 120 policemen and soldiers have been slain since the crackdown was launched on the FIS in January.

The party, which wants to install an Islamic republic, was winning Algeria's first democratic parliamentary elections when defeated by the coup. Thousands of its followers have since been jailed.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00... Santa Vision
18:30... Marc et Sophie
19:00... News in French
19:15... News in Arabic
19:30... News in Hebrew
20:00... News in Arabic
20:30... Acropolis Now
21:00... Mr. Bean
21:15... Toot
22:00... News in English
22:30... Oscar Film

PRAYER TIMES

06:33... Fajr
07:57... (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:00... Dhuhr
16:19... 'Asr
19:23... Maghrib
20:46... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swarthef, Tel. 517470
Assumptions of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Romanian Orthodox Church Tel. 772261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691
Church of the Redeemer... Tel. 638256

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal summer weather will prevail and a rise in humidity will take place. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman... 20 / 37
Aqaba... 25 / 37
Dahlat... 19 / 34
Jordan Valley... 24 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 39. Humidity readings: Amman 60 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMBULANCE
Dr. Mohammad Al Nabawi... 693925
Dr. Fakhri Bilal... 625778
Dr. Alid Al Masri... 675485
Dr. Nidal Al Dahbi... 692625
Fares Pharmacy... 661912
Fardous Pharmacy... 783336
Al Asma Pharmacy... 637035
Neirokh Pharmacy... 626672
Al Salem Pharmacy... 636790
Yacoub Pharmacy... 644945
Shimseid Pharmacy... 637660

URSID:
Dr. Ali Al Omari... (-)

AL Sharra's pharmacy... 275825
ZARQA:
Dr. Hisham Al Sharabati... (-)
Khatib Pharmacy... 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre... 637111
Civil Defence Department... 661111
Civil Defence Immediate... 630541
Rescue... 199
Civil Defence Emergency... 627777
Fire Brigade... 891238
Blood Bank... 771211
Highway Police... 843402
Traffic Police... 696390
Public Security Department... 638221
Hotel Complaints... 625800
Price Complaints... 661176
Water and Sewerage... 897467
Complaints... 897467
Armenian Municipality... 787111
Complaints... 637035
Telephone Information (directory assistance)... 121
Overseas Calls... 610230
Central Amman Telephone... 623101
Rashid National Hospital... 651101
Abdullah Telephone Request... 651101
Jordan Television... 773111

Radio Jordan... 774111
Water Authority... 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority... 815615
Electric Power Company... 636381
RJ Flight Information... 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport... 08-53200

HOSPITALS

ADMAN:
Human Medical Centre... 81381232
Rashed Maternity, J. Amn... 642816
Alkhat Maternity, J. Amn... 642412
Jubal Amman Maternity... 642362
Mehlis, J. Amman... 636140
Samaritan Hospital... 664174
University Hospital... 669131
Al-Munassar Hospital... 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali... 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali... 6641646
Islamic, Al-Muhajirin... 771815
Al-Bashir, J. Amman... 7711126
Army, Marja... 8916115
Queen Alia Hospital... 6224050
Amal Hospital... 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital... 6938332
Zarqa National Hospital... 6938332
Bin Sina Hospital... 6938332
Al-Rihana Modern Hospital... 6939990

IBRD:
Princess Batina Hospital... 6927555
Greek Catholic Hospital... 6927275
Bin Al Nabies Hospital... 6924700
AQA:
Princess Haya Hospital... 69314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 0853200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00... Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
08:30... Dhahran (RJ)
09:15... Muscat
10:00... Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15... Aqaba (RJ)
10:30... Beirut (RJ)
10:50... Dubai, Bahrain (RJ)
17:00... Cairo (RJ)

18:55... Frankfurt (RJ)
19:35... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
19:55... London (RJ)
20:30... Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:30... Cairo (MS)
14:10... Riyadh (SU)
20:35... Beirut (ME)
23:55... Bucharest (RO)

Teachers charge schools owners violate their rights, demand action

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Private Schools Teachers (GUPST) has voiced its complaints against the treatment its members receive from owners and directors of their schools.

In an interview with Jordan News Agency (Petra), GUPST President Mazen Al Maaita called on the government to refrain from granting new licences to private schools before making sure that teachers' rights will be respected.

Mr. Maaita said that teachers in the private schools do not enjoy health insurance schemes for themselves and their families, are not paid during the summer holidays and their salaries are far below the level fixed by the Ministry of Education.

Teachers employed by private schools are normally forced to teach overcrowded classes, in violation of the Ministry of Education's rules, said Mr. Maaita. He said school administrations are finding numerous ways to cover for their violations of rules and regulations to escape penalties.

Mr. Maaita blamed the government for failing to force these schools to abide by the regulations and for issuing licences for new schools and kindergartens without ascertaining that they

comply with the rules and stop their arbitrary dismissal of teachers.

Some of the school administrations force the teachers to sign documents admitting that they get salaries which they do not actually receive, Mr. Maaita noted.

He demanded that the Ministry of Education make sure that any new private school abide strictly by the regulations before receiving a licence, and that the ministry conduct regular inspection to ensure that the schools are following its instructions.

Ministry of Education sources said that a total of 1,000 private schools exist in Jordan, half of which are located in Amman. It said that these schools offer education to 132,000 boys and girls and employ 7,500 teachers.

President of Private Schools Owners Union (PSOU), Mr. Subhi Assaf, expressed regret over the union's inability to force many private school owners to join it. Out of 1,000 private schools in Jordan, only 100 are now registered as members, noted Mr. Assaf.

What is required now is a new legislation making it mandatory for all owners of private schools to join the union, he said.

Mr. Assaf said only a very few number of private schools charge very high fees and the majority of them charge low fees. He said the majority of private schools are committed to paying at least the minimum level of salaries to their teachers and the union strictly opposes any attempt by any of these schools to lower these rates.

Director of the Private Education Department for the Amman Area at the Ministry of Education Rashid Abdul Hamid said the existing regulations and laws require drastic amendments. He echoed the call on the ministry to make sure that private schools and kindergartens acquire all the facilities needed for the educational process before granting them licences. The ministry, he added, ought to introduce measures forcing the schools to abide by the salary rates fixed by the ministry and put a ceiling on the fees they charge.

Mr. Abdul Hamid said the Department of Education in Amman has submitted a set of proposals to the ministry called on the government to allow teachers of the private schools to benefit from the services offered by the Civil Service Consumer Corporation in light of the soaring cost of living in Jordan and the low salaries most of these teachers receive.

By-elections held today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Nearly 70,000 registered voters in the fourth and sixth constituencies will go to the polls Tuesday to elect candidates to fill two seats in the Lower House of Parliament made vacant by the recent deaths of Minister Al Hadid (fourth district) and Ahmad Azideh (sixth district).

Seven candidates are contesting the vacant seat in the fourth district where the number of registered voters now stands at 35,834 out of a total eligible voters of 69,336, according to Ministry of Interior sources.

They said that three candidates are running for the vacant seat in the sixth district where the number of registered voters now stands at 33,834 out of 46,816 eligible voters.

According to the ministry, all registered voters must present identification cards such as the family book, a passport or valid driving licence at the polling centres.

Ministry officials said only 53 per cent of the voters in the fourth constituency have received the voting cards and registered to vote in the by-elections while 76 per cent of the voters in the sixth constituency did so. Aug. 10 was the deadline for the voters to receive their cards.

Amman Governor Issa Omari said that the by-elections will be based on revised and accredited voter lists. He said that his office, which takes charge of the organisation of the voting process, has made final arrangements for the by-elections.

Two central committees have been set up to supervise the voting, one for the fourth and the other the sixth districts headed by Hashem Al Waked and Mislch Al Tarawneh respectively.

1st Congress of Arab scientists abroad opens Regent calls for joint effort to tackle regional problems

By Maha Addasi Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday called on Arab scientists and technologists living and working abroad to join hands with their colleagues in the Arab World in tackling economic, scientific and social issues facing the region.

One means of dealing with this matter in an appropriate and effective measure is the establishment of a network grouping prominent Arab scientists, Prince Hassan said in a keynote address delivered on his behalf by Zarqa University President Mohammad Hamdan at the opening of the first Congress of Arab Scientists and Technologists Abroad (ASTA).

The Arab World suffers from numerous problems and it is time for the Arab scientists and technologists working in other countries to offer their help to ensure continued development for the Arab countries in the fields of science, technology and other forms of development, said the Prince.

About 150 scientists and technologists living and working abroad are taking part in the three-day meetings which opened at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

The congress, which will hold its sessions at the Jerusalem Hotel, is expected to review numerous working papers dealing with a wide range of topics related to science and technology

and various aspects related to socio-economic development.

The Arab scientists have the ability and skill to define the real problems and help to find solutions for them, Prince Hassan said.

The problems of the Arab World are numerous and complicated and there is need for strenuous efforts to deal with them through the proposed integrated network, he said.

The Crown Prince called Arab scientists abroad to help in training young scientists in the Arab countries so that they can pursue the efforts for development in their respective countries.

Dr. Munir Nayfeh, a professor at the department of physics at the University of Illinois, said that this congress is the largest gathering of Arab scientists abroad.

"We hope to establish a network of all Arab scientists abroad in order to be able to contact them and to exchange experiences," Dr. Nayfeh said.

He added that another hope is to establish a laser research centre in Jordan, to benefit the Arab region in the areas of science, medicine, agriculture and industry.

Dr. Abdullah Toukan, secretary general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), which organised the congress, said that the community's acceptance of technology and the spread of knowledge would have a positive impact on economic development in the region.

Dr. Toukan said that this congress comes as the first building block for establishing a forum for dialogue between Arab scientists and technologists from here and abroad.

The projected dialogue, he said, will enable Arab scientists abroad to understand the obstacles which impede scientific and technological progress as well as socio-economic development in the Arab World.

Dr. Toukan said, joint action is vital as it would help the Arab countries to benefit from the expertise and experience acquired by advanced nations.

Dr. Ali Adieh Abdullah, director general of the Arab Atomic Energy Agency, delivered an address expressing appreciation to Jordan's leadership and people for hosting the congress.

He also thanked Jordanian, Arab and international scientific organisations which helped organise the congress.

He said that the idea of this congress stemmed from the need to introduce Arab scientists to one another so that they can exchange views about the best and most appropriate ways for ensuring sound and sustainable

development in the Arab region. A panel discussion at the congress will tackle "Brain Drain," and a proposal to recruit retirees of Arab origin to work in their home land for five years.

Dr. Bilal Ayyub, a member of the panel said that many people would be encouraged to work in their home land. "It would also be financially tempting as these people would receive retirement funds as well as a new salary," he said.

Dr. Hussein Al-Ekabi, a professor of chemistry, said he is unable to relocate to the Arab World but is willing to contribute his time and knowledge at a part-time basis.

He said he feels that this congress is an opportunity to establish contacts with universities in Arab countries and teach intensive courses there.

Other panel discussions planned for this three-day congress include "Avenues of Transfer of Know-How," "Advanced Techniques for the Exploration of Natural Resources," and "Arab Scientists and Technologists Abroad and in the Arab World—Capabilities and Limitations."

Seminar stresses Islam is religion of peace

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A newly established Jordanian peace group is challenging the West's perception of Islam as a violent religion that advocates war, emphasising that peace is at the heart of the Muslim Faith.

Jordan Peace Forum (JPF), which was formed earlier this year by Jordanian intellectuals to promote peace in the region, also seeks to change "the dominant Western perception of Islam," JPF's Deputy President Mr. Farouq Jarrah said Sunday at a seminar held at the Amman Chamber of Commerce.

"Muslims are born to love peace and advocate it," Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izz Eddine Al Khatib Al Tamimi told the seminar, which was organised by JPF.

"Salam (peace) is one of the 99 names of Allah," he said. Mr. Tamimi said that Islam views peace as the basis of cooperation and equality between people, citing Koranic verses that stress this point.

The minister, however, did not rule out the use of force as a means to attain oppressed rights. Some religious, said Mr. Tamimi, oppress their people as well as other nations, degrading their dignity, usurping their rights and pushing them further towards backwardness.

Mr. Tamimi said that Islam urges the Muslim nation to be powerful because "there is no need for war when other nations fear our power."

"That is what we call armed peace," he said.

Other participants at the seminar, entitled "Islam and Salam" supported Mr. Tamimi's points. Dr. Abdul Karim Al Gharibeh, former dean of the College of Arts at the University of Jordan, said that Islam is the only religion whose names are linked with peace. The word "salam," he said, appears in 20 Koranic "suras" and 200 verses. This is about half the Koranic verses, he said.

Gharibeh pointed out that "Islam" and "salam" are derived from the same origin, which means tranquillity and security. They are the traits of the faithful Muslim and the "pillars of a healthy life between the fidel and his family and society, as well," he said.

Dr. Gharibeh was also careful to differentiate between "salam" and "Islam" (peace and surrender). "Islam is salam," he said, but "it rejects all kinds of surrender and calls for reclaiming the rights of individuals and the nation if they are violated."

Acting as the seminar's moderator, Mr. Jarrah said that past events in the region might account for the new inclination towards peace.

Peace "can be considered as one resort since there is no other alternative," said Mr. Jarrah, who denied that the formation of his group was a reaction to Israel's Peace Now movement.

Sahab fire under control, cause still undetermined

AMMAN — More than 36 hours after a fire broke out at a warehouse owned by Fine Hygienic Paper Co. Ltd. in Sahab Industrial City, fire fighters of the Civil Defence Department (CDD) were still at the site trying to put out the remnants of the fire and cool the area in order to enter the buildings.

A CDD spokesman told the Jordan Times Monday, that fire engines were still at the site trying to deal with fine pockets still simmering in the huge rolls of raw paper and chemical substances in the warehouse.

Owners of the company were unavailable for comment Monday and no estimates of the losses could be made.

An estimated 400 vehicles owned by the CDD, the armed forces, the Public Security Department, the Amman Municipality and the Water Authority of Jordan were used in Sunday's firefighting operations.

The warehouse, which contained inflammable and raw materials for the manufacture of the tissue paper, was totally destroyed, but the CDD men were able to prevent the fire from extending to the adjoining factory which contains the machinery.

CDD officials said that no one can give any estimate of the losses or determine the cause of the fire until the whole area has been cooled and the last glimmer of fire has been extinguished.

At the time of the outbreak of the fire at 7:00 a.m. Sunday, nine people were reported to have been overcome by smoke, including three CDD men who were rushed to hospital for treatment.

As the Sahab Industrial City lacks sufficient water supplies, water tanker trucks had to be brought in from far places.

CDD said that the fire is now completely under control, but it was still impossible for any one to venture inside the warehouse.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibitions

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Exploring Science" at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Fayed Dweik at Alia Art Gallery.

New Digital Diary from CASIO



CASIO Computer Co., Ltd. announces the release of the new SF-R20/SF-R10 Super Systemizer, with new, larger-than-ever displays. The CASIO line up of Digital Diaries continue to grow, constantly expanding the capabilities of the Digital Diary format. The new SF-R20/SF-R10 Super-Systemizer build on this trend by providing a new, large liquid crystal display along with large memory capacity and spread-sheet capabilities — all designed to be easy to use. All of this makes the SF-R20/SF-R10 Super Systemizer the top of the CASIO Digital Diary line up.

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Link to the future

THE RECENT decision by a group of Jordanians to form a peace movement is commendable in view of the widespread positive implications of such a step on all fronts. Officially called the Jordanian Peace Forum (JPF), the group aims to strengthen the organic link between peace on the one hand and other human endeavours by economic, social or personal rights and public freedoms. The launching of such an initiative in Jordan, although it might be only a small beginning, is indeed timely in view of not only the importance of the ongoing peace process but also because of the growing realisation, especially in this part of the world, that progress in all its forms and manifestations can never be attained without the advent of an environment of peace based on justice, positive tolerance and ethics. Democracy per se can hardly prosper and develop under conditions of internal or external tensions or conflicts. As a matter of fact multi-party democracy in the developing world, including the Arab countries, has been prevented from taking roots due in part to the absence of regional peace and domestic stability. Yet the opposite is equally true. Without the promotion and protection of human rights, there can be no real peace whether internally or externally. Clearly the two objectives complement one another and the founders of JPF must be aware of the interdependence of one goal on the other. In the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the ongoing efforts to achieve a fair and permanent peaceful resolution in the Middle East, the dependence of peace on justice and justice on peace is all too clear to be glossed over. Still it would be sheer fallacy to play up the peace phenomenon at the expense of individual and national human rights whether they are political, civil or economic. The two objectives must be pursued together. No doubt JPF is fully aware of the complexity of the equation that juxtaposes peace on the same platform of intellectual and material progress. The more inter dialogue that the members of the forum tolerate among themselves, the deeper would be the appreciation of the need to keep one's eyes focused at all times on the other factors that affect and determine peace. As things stand now, the forum has only 60 or so members and obviously it needs greater participation by the public before it can hope to succeed in delivering its message successfully across to the people. To do that the founding members must spell out their platform more coherently for the other sectors of the Jordanian society to comprehend and relate to. Being still a fledgling society of well-intentioned individuals, more time is necessary for it to elucidate and amplify its thoughts. The fact that JPF has taken what is probably the first step of its kind in the direction of peace, should prompt the rest of us to think about the move and maybe also share in helping the cause.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS rather naive on the part of the American officials to try to deny the relationship of the current American provocations against Iraq and the ongoing presidential campaign, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. No one can be fooled by the American officials' denials of this relationship and everyone can see that President Bush is trying to win the American votes for a second term in office through intimidating Iraq and probably launching a new aggression on the Arab country, said the daily. For this reason, the mission of the U.N. inspectors in Iraq seems somewhat wired and provocative as they are not looking for mass destruction weapons inside the ministry buildings but are determined to anger the Iraqis into refusing their entry, thus paving the ground for another American aggression, said the paper. It said that the inspectors are not looking for weapons but for American votes to support the U.S. president in the coming elections. If need be, the American president could send in his aircraft and those of western allies to bomb a number of sites in Iraq in a bid to subdue the Iraqi leadership and so win the votes of the electorate, continued the paper. It said that Mr. Bush's assistants are trying in vain to hide the purpose of the current campaign against Iraq because the whole world realises that the American president does not stop at committing any atrocity for the sake of retaining his seat in the White House for another four years.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily welcomed Prime Minister Zeid Ben Shaker's response to the calls of Parliament to introduce strict measures designed to control financial matters of various government departments. The prime minister's decision to give instructions to various departments, to adhere to the Audit Bureau's regulations was a step in the right direction and one that is needed to put matters in their right perspective, said the daily. The paper said that the government's response shows close cooperation with Parliament over matters of public and national interest, especially in matters related to finances and administrative excesses. The paper was particularly appreciative of the prime minister's determination to pinpoint the imbalances and the weak spots in the public administration system. It said that the meeting of government and Parliament views, in support of the Audit Bureau and in the drive to introduce measures for stricter financial and administrative control over public administration, calls for real pride. It said democracy which is bound to be enhanced through coordination and close cooperation.

Women in Palestine — going forwards or backwards?

By Maria Holt

The Palestinian woman in 1992 presents a multiplicity of images. She is an engineering student in Western-style clothing, resuming her long-interrupted studies at Bir Zeit University. She is a middle-aged woman in a long embroidered dress, protecting a child, not necessarily her own, from Israeli soldiers in Jabaliya refugee camp. She is the mother of several small children, her husband in an Israeli prison, doing needlework at home to earn money to feed her family. She is Hanan Ashrawi, the intelligent and articulate spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace conference, a media star in the West. She is, in short, a woman of many parts and not at all easy to define. But it could be argued that the position of Palestinian women, far from improving during the intifada, has in actuality declined. There are a number of factors to support this view.

To begin with, the disruptions to the education system since the intifada began have meant that young people are not able to achieve even the rudiments of a well-rounded education. Illiteracy is on the increase and girls are reaching school-leaving age ill-equipped for a career. Women's expectations, and also their confidence, have correspondingly declined. Second, the rapidly worsening economic situation in the occupied territories during the intifada has led to a decrease in employment opportunities for everyone, but especially for females. Women who work outside the home occupy the worst-paid and most menial positions. Third, during the intifada, and in line with developments throughout the Arab World, there has been a substantial growth in the strength of political Islam. Its expanded influence has introduced new restrictions on women's dress and behaviour. The hijab, or headscarf, is simply the most visible manifestation of the Islamic phenomenon but, it can be argued, it increasingly masks hidden tensions deeply embedded within society. At their root lies a struggle for power. Finally, the marriage age for women has been lowered during the course of the intifada chiefly as a result of a feeling amongst many families that marriage prevents daughters from embarking upon a career of political activism, with all its accompanying perils.

The constraints on political involvement

Although frequently an active participant in her people's struggle for self-determination against an unyielding Israeli occupation, the Palestinian woman's participation tends to be constrained

by a number of factors, some imposed from without and others stemming from lack of agreement among women themselves.

There appear to be three distinct and somewhat contradictory strands. First, the nationalist movement, in which the various women's groups and committees play an active role, seeks to place the national struggle above such concerns as women's rights, insisting that these are secondary and must wait until the battle has been won and independence achieved. A second strand argues that the social struggle must go hand in hand with the national one. It would be a great mistake, according to this line of reasoning — usually described as "feminist" — to postpone the fight to improve women's status until the arrival of a Palestinian state. The third trend would appear, on the surface at least, to represent a backlash against the other two. It tends to be conservative and includes a pronounced Islamic element. It can be characterised as a reaction to the apparent lack of success of the national movement and the PLO in the quest for Palestinian independence. In order to compete with overwhelming Israeli power, it is argued, there must be a return to greater "authenticity."

This strand in Palestinian thinking reflects a movement in the wider Arab-Islamic World. There is a temptation to dismiss it outright as having negative implications for women's rights, but such assumptions deserve closer attention. Although Islam is often cited as the cause of women's relative lack of progress, it is clear that a more compelling reason may be found in centuries of cultural accumulation and conditioning and, above all, attempts to place women in a position of relative powerlessness in relation to the family and society. One finds very little justification in formal Islamic teachings for many of the positions currently being forcefully expounded by the fundamentalists.

Are Palestinian women in danger of suffering a fate similar to women in Algeria after that country's revolution against the French in the 1960s? Such an eventuality seems at present highly unlikely. It cannot, however, be discounted altogether, particularly in light of the growing strength of the Islamic movement. To answer this question, one must examine the various ways — formal and organisational or informal, spontaneous and ad hoc — in which women have been able to contribute towards the waging of the intifada and the functioning of Palestinian society

in an extremely embattled setting, and to ascertain how attitudes towards them have changed over the last four and a half years.

As I have suggested, there is evidence that, although women's positions improved significantly at the beginning of the uprising, they have now begun to decline and that the Palestinian woman in 1992 is threatened by a host of reactionary forces. But an opposite line indicates that opportunities for women have increased in many respects and, furthermore, that societal attitudes towards female participation in non-traditional pursuits, such as employment outside the home, leadership within the community and even political activism, are slowly changing. The situation is far

"The disruptions to the education system since the intifada began have meant that young people are not able to achieve even the rudiments of a well-rounded education. Illiteracy is on the increase and girls are reaching school-leaving age ill-equipped for a career."

from straightforward and many Palestinian women are concerned to stress the differences between their struggle and that of Western feminists. They are not, they insist, striving for greater sexual freedom or even parity with men. Neither is it their intention to abandon their responsibility to family or community in favour of a more individualistic life style.

A long record of activism

Women have been active in Palestine since the beginning of the British Mandate. The first women's union was founded in 1921. During the 1936 revolt, women from all sectors of Palestinian society fought alongside men although their activities were different. One must bear in mind that Palestinian society at that

time was rural and highly conservative. It operated within a strictly patriarchal framework in which a high premium was placed on female virginity and the responsibility for preserving family honour, which disproportionately lay with the female members of society.

The contradictions which were beginning to emerge in 1948, between a woman's traditional role and the demands being forced on her by new and tragic circumstances, grew even more pronounced in the wake of the catastrophe. In 1948, many thousands of Palestinians were uprooted and cast out into a life of exile, in which uncertainty, sorrow and discomfort were the pre-dominant themes. Women, while expected to shoulder the bulk of domestic labour, as well as continuing their habitual role of maintaining the family honour, were also now regarded as principal preservers of a badly damaged Palestinian identity and supporters of, and eventually participants in, the embryonic resistance movement.

The Israeli occupation of the remainder of Palestine in 1967 brought further changes. By this time, access to education for everyone, including women, had increased dramatically. Women's expectations were rising and their presence in the formal organisations of the resistance expanding.

In the late 1970s, four women's committees were set up in the occupied territories, attached to the four principal factions of the Palestinian national movement: the Democratic Front, the Palestinian Communist Party, the Popular Front and lastly Fatah. The work of these committees was diverse; it ranged from the establishment of day-care facilities and literacy projects to the organisation of anti-occupation demonstrations. What they failed to address, however, was the question of women's rights.

Women in the intifada

Nonetheless, it is undeniable that a Palestinian women's movement existed and, by the time the intifada erupted in late 1987, it was well established. Three phases of female political action have been identified in the early stages of the intifada: an initial phase of spontaneous confrontation with the Israeli military; a second phase involving the creation of a network of popular and neighbourhood committees, declared illegal in August 1988 by the Israeli authorities; and, starting in November 1988, the formation of women's committees to organise in terms of future Palestinian state structures.

Beyond this, women carried

out an abundance of tasks, from protecting children and young activists from the wrath of the Israeli army to trying to establish an alternative economy based on locally produced food and clothing. On the whole, though, these activities were deemed appropriate for women. Less acceptable was any indication of overt political activity. Such might lead, for example, to arrest, imprisonment and the possibility of sexual molestation by Israeli soldiers.

In order to avoid dilemmas of this sort, there has been a social reaction, spearheaded by Hamas, which aims to reassert supposedly traditional values which often translate, in practice, into keeping women off the streets and, if

to impose the hijab on the female population. During this period, the intifada leadership was slow to intervene, evidently in the belief that the appearance of unity was more important than any concession to women's rights.

The question must be asked: Why have the male members of Palestinian society, and particularly those in positions of leadership, evidently conspired to thwart the women amongst them who wish to improve their status and to participate more fully in the popular struggle? Part of the answer lies in the possibility that the struggle is taking place on two levels: the major one in opposition to the occupation and the other, in traditional fashion, between groups and individuals within society itself, for power.

It cannot be denied that reactionary forces are at work, too, in other areas of life. In matters pertaining to the family, for example, women have lost many of the rights formally allowed them under Islamic law simply because they lack the power and knowledge to claim them. Obviously it would be foolish to insist upon rights which might lead to a woman losing her husband, her children and the respect of her community; it is simply not worth the risk.

On the other hand, definite signs of progress for women can be detected. Specialised women's centres are springing up in response to perceived needs; they cater to a diversity of areas, from the formulation of a marriage contract according to Islamic law to a day course in mechanics. What is important is to build a woman's confidence and, thus, increase her scope for manoeuvre. There is a growing realisation that some attention must be paid to women's rights if the new Palestinian state is to be a healthy one. But consensus on this matter can by no means be assumed; substantial disparities still exist between the priorities enunciated by elite women and those of the masses.

It is possible, nonetheless, to conclude that the Palestinian women's movement, despite its many setbacks and weaknesses, is considerably more developed than its counterpart during the Algerian revolution. There is not much danger, therefore, that women will resume a purely domestic or otherwise restricted role after independence. At the same time, there is an urgent need for women to preserve and consolidate the gains they have already achieved, not merely for their own sake, but for the larger good of the intifada and Palestinian society — Middle East International.

"Women, while expected to shoulder the bulk of domestic labour, as well as continuing their habitual role of maintaining the family honour, were also regarded as principal preservers of a badly damaged Palestinian identity."

they must venture forth, to ensure that they are adequately covered. The campaign to impose "modest" attire has enjoyed its most dramatic success in the Gaza Strip. The other side of the coin, as many women are keen to point out, is that the wearing of Islamic garb permits them to move more easily in a male-dominated society.

A move on two levels

What, then, is one to conclude? There are, I think, a number of interpretations and these are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Palestinian society, although in the midst of a revolution, remains fundamentally conservative. As we have seen, the Islamic movement in Gaza was successful in 1989 in its campaign

Christian boycott jeopardises Taif peace accord

By Samia Nakhoul
Reuters

BEIRUT — A Lebanese Christian decision to boycott general elections as long as Syrian troops control the Lebanese heartland could undermine the complicated agreement which ended 15 years of civil war, analysts have said. Muslims and Christians, meeting in the Saudi resort town of Taif in 1989, agreed to rebuild the unified state which in 1975 began to fall apart under the pressures of private armies, foreign intervention and sectarian slaughter.

The Taif agreement has made some progress — a new president was chosen and the Lebanese army regained control of many areas. But diplomats and politicians say the decision by influential Christian groups to boycott the elections starting on August 23 will upset the fragile sectarian balance.

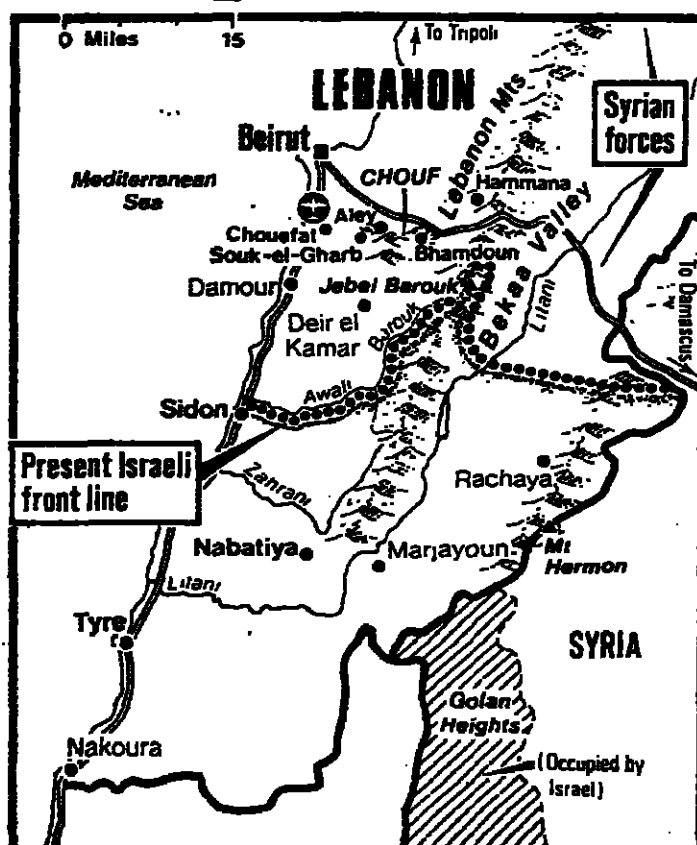
"The Taif Accord is all in jeopardy. This (the boycott) threatens to dismember Lebanon again," a senior Lebanese politician told Reuters.

"Suspending the elections would mean abolishing what the Lebanese have achieved through Taif. This will return the country to instability," said Abdullah Al Amin, a pro-Syrian minister of state.

The least of the consequences will be Christian isolation and uncertainty about the legitimacy of the new parliament, which replaces an assembly elected in 1972, the analysts say.

Christian opponents of elections have already said the parliament will be illegitimate and will not represent them.

The boycott, based on fears that the large Syrian military presence in Beirut could influence the voting, means 700,000 of the two million Lebanese eligible to



vote may not do so.

The Christian opposition is made up of the Falange Party of George Saadeh, the Lebanese Forces of Samir Geagea, followers of exiled General Michel Aoun, the National Liberal Party of Dori Chamoun and the National Bloc of voluntary exile Raymond Edde.

The groups, backed by Lebanon's Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir enjoy wide support in Christian areas.

But the Syrian-backed government of Prime Minister Rashid Al Solh seems determined to accept the challenge. Mr. Solh has said again that the elections would take place as scheduled.

"Until now, we have no plans to postpone the polls," he said.

Under the electoral law, which for the first time enshrines the principle of Muslim-Christian parity in parliament, a Christian boycott will leave the field clear for leftist or independent Christian candidates who favour Syrian influence.

In each of the 11 multi-seat constituencies, voters must pick a set of candidates to reflect the demographic strength of the religious sects in the area — three Maronite Christians, two Greek Orthodox and two Sunni Muslims, for example.

If Christians do not vote, the Muslims will end up choosing the

Christian members of the 128-seat parliament.

The electoral law, which was amended this year, stipulates different rules for each of Lebanon's five provinces.

Official sources said the law was out of line with the Taif agreement, which said each province should be one electoral constituency. This has been one of the bones of contention between the government and the Christian opposition.

Diplomats said the crisis over elections could have been avoided, given that the term of the current parliament does not expire until 1994.

The government, saying the climate in the country was not propitious for general elections, last year nominated 40 deputies to fill seats left by deaths and to create new seats to bring parity between Christians and Muslims in line with Taif.

The Christians fear a new assembly will scrap the existing political system, abolish the confessionalism which preserves the presidency to the Christians, and seek unity with Syria.

They have demanded the elections be postponed until Syrian troops pull out of Beirut and other areas in September.

The Taif agreement said Syria and Lebanon would decide on redeploying Syrian troops within two years from the election of a president, ratification of Taif, the formation of a unity government and the endorsement of constitutional amendments.

The government says the two-year period set for Syrian redeployment began on September 21, 1989, the day on which parliament passed the constitutional reforms.

But Syria and its Lebanese allies argue that one of the key points in the Taif agreement — the abolishment of political confessionalism — is still awaiting action.

LETTERS

Why capitalism?

To the Editor:

In response to Mr. Wafai Dajani's letter about the "public sector illusion," (Jordan Times August 5) I would like, out of curiosity, to ask him about the motives behind privatising the companies and the industries following the free-market economy?

If we look at the Jordanian society today, we find that 60 per cent of the population is living under the poverty line. Thirty per cent are considered middle-upper class and the rest 10 per cent are upper class citizens. These figures indicate that more than half of the population is not oppressed only economically but also socially. Does the government provide them with free houses or free education or even health services?

Certainly the answer is no, because the government desires to encourage people to work on individual bases. For instance it does not provide graduates with jobs, like Egypt. It does not provide the people with limited income with free housing, like Israel.

In other words, the policy of privatisation is nothing but creating different social classes based on nothing else but on how much people own in the banks. The education level does not count any more. The ratio of intellectual people is not important. The record of human rights in the country is not negotiable. The issue of social justice is not vital in any nation's life.

It personally would encourage privatisation once the basic needs of the human beings, which the Universal Declaration of Human Rights set forth are granted to all citizens regardless of their economic status. I strongly believe that once the basic demands of the citizens are met we can talk about improving their economic status by making it more sophisticated. Privatisation is nothing but a luxurious matter that makes the rich richer and the poor poorer.

Who eventually benefits from privatisation are very few people; the rest of the population will remain the same. Unfortunately, those benefiting will control the prices according to their personal interests and as a result the poor people will remain victims of the free-market policy.

Surprisingly, the Arab governments are moving towards privatising the public sector and destroying the poor working-class. Since the death of Jamal Abdul Nasser and the discovery of oil in the Gulf region the Arab states have been following the capitalist track that did nothing but worsen the economic status of the Arab people. When will our leaders understand the needs of their masses? It remains a question that needs an honest answer!

Khaled Al Asmar,
P.O. Box 3008,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Coalition steps up pressure

(Continued from page 1)

Iraq fired about 40 Scuds each against Saudi Arabia and Israel during the Gulf war.

Asked if all Iraq's Scuds had now been accounted for, Trevan said: "Our assessment of how many Scuds there are varies from 0 to 200 on the information that is available to us... as far as we know, it is possible that we've accounted for all their Scuds but we don't yet have the certainty because the Iraqis haven't opened up fully with us."

The United States and its allies are planning to ban Iraq military flights in southern Iraq to protect Shiite Muslims from air attacks by the Baghdad government, Bush administration officials said.

They said the plan was still being worked out but that a warning could go to Iraq this week that its warplanes could be shot down if they continue recent attacks on the disident Shites in violation of U.N. Resolution 688.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the United States, Britain and France were preparing to declare an air exclusion zone south of the 32nd Parallel similar to a current exclusion zone in northern Iraq protecting Kurdish dissidents from attack.

The NBC and CNN television networks reported earlier that the "no-fly zone" would be enforced by planes from the U.S. aircraft carrier Independence now in the Gulf and other aircraft in the region.

A spokesman for Britain's Foreign Office confirmed that Britain, France and the United States were discussing measures to force Iraqi compliance with U.N. Security Council measures and said the "Baghdad regime is in flagrant breach of the ceasefire agreement" by using fixed-wing aircraft in the south.

A diplomatic source at the United Nations in New York said those three countries were to meet Monday to discuss Iraq.

Arabs to meet

(Continued from page 1)

decided whether Palestinian negotiators would go to Washington on Aug. 24.

"This question is still under study," he said.

The PLO has called Palestinian negotiators to Tunis for consultations. At least four of the negotiators are now believed to be in Tunis.

Earlier Sunday, Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying by a Bahraini newspaper that he was worried that Lawrence Eagleburger will take over as acting U.S. secretary of state from James Baker, who is moving to the White House next week to head President George Bush's reelection campaign.

Mr. Eagleburger was "one of the pupils of Henry Kissinger... and has in the past shown public bias towards Israel and against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation," Mr. Arafat said.

Dr. Kissinger, who served as secretary of state in the early 1970s, rejected dealing with the PLO and was the architect of an American pledge to Israel that Washington would not have any contact with the organisation.

Meanwhile, reports from occupied Jerusalem said Monday that Palestinian negotiators were braced to demand a total halt to settlements in the occupied territories before discussing self-rule plans at the Washington talks.

The contents indicated that the Palestinians may not insist on a delay in the bilateral talks during the Damascus meeting but will seek to ensure that the issue of settlements is placed on the top of the agenda in Washington.

"We cannot achieve any concrete progress on the transitional period while conditions on the ground are such that they may undermine prospects for peace," Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Asrawi was quoted as saying.

"Before (the U.S.) agreement (on the loan guarantees to Israel) we were prepared with a detailed, practical and flexible plan for negotiations," said delegate Ghassan Al Khatib. "Now we are more concerned about settlement activity."

Another Jordanian official told the Jordan Times Monday that "time is running out" for the delegations to meet and further coordinate positions "if they were to keep the Aug. 24 schedule in Washington."

Most probably, the meeting will make a review of the most relevant developments in the peace process and leave it to the heads of delegations to coordinate on the ground as the talks get going," he said.

"The meeting will possibly come out with a reaffirmation of the Arab commitment to the principles of the peace process and reiterate the decisions adopted by the last coordination meeting and insist on the non-negotiability of the fundamentals," the official said.

"And it will demand a similar commitment from Israel."

All the diplomatic sources spoke on condition of anonymity.

Earlier on Monday Iraq threatened U.S. bombing raids in Baghdad by allowing a U.N. inspection team access to sensitive locations inside Iraq.

The inspection team completed about five hours of inspections without incident and held talks with Iraqi officials, U.N. officials said.

"Nothing exciting has happened that we know of here," said an officer of the U.N. special commission in Baghdad.

On Sunday, President George Bush had declined to talk about any attack plans, but repeated past warnings to Iraq: "Iraq cannot be allowed to dictate what can and cannot be inspected" as it did for three weeks in July when inspectors were barred from the Ministry of Agriculture in Baghdad.

"The United States has plans to be sure that Saddam Hussein does what he's supposed to do," Bush said at the White House. He specified Iraqi compliance with resolutions requiring destruction of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes and the safeguarding of Iraqi minorities.

The president also denounced suggestions that military force was being used to help his own political standing, calling them "ugly and uncalled for."

The 22-member Russian-led inspection team, which had been working with unusual secrecy in Iraq for the past 10 days, is scheduled to leave the country Tuesday.

Senior administration sources, speaking only on condition of anonymity, had said the Bush plans included grounding the country's air force and striking other military targets.

One source said the targets may have included Iraq's Defence Ministry in Baghdad and its Ministry of Military Industrialisation, which has been a key component of the country's weapons development programmes.

"There are lots of military targets left in Iraq. The place is nothing but a military convenience store," said one administration official.

Kabul, rebels put out claims

(Continued from page 1)

group last Friday. The expulsion order included Afghanistan's Prime Minister Ustad Abdul Saboor Farooq, who was already out of the country on a tour of Muslim nations.

Mr. Hekmatyar has vowed to destroy the capital unless a militia, led by his arch-rival General Rashid Dostam, is ejected from Kabul.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani rejected his demand calling Mr. Hekmatyar a "traitor" and a "very dangerous man."

Not enough food reaches Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

a little over half that is coming in, aid groups say.

"Food supplies are improving, but food by itself won't save all these people," said Ian Macleod, a spokesman for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). "There must be an integrated effort that includes better security and more medicine."

More medicine was needed, he said, because most malnourished people do not die of starvation but contract a disease that proves fatal in their weakened condition.

Tony Oakley, who runs a marine consulting firm, said Somalia could suffer the same problem Ethiopia did in the mid-1980s, when one million people starved while food piled up in ports.

"There were mountains of grain (15 metres) high being pushed around by earthmovers," said Mr. Oakley, who worked in Ethiopia at the time and now supervises port operations in Merca. "There was a huge bottleneck because everyone sent food and no one worried about the logistics of getting it out to the countryside."

The food operation in Merca — 80 kilometres south of Mogadishu — is one of Somalia's few success stories. With feeding kitchens working smoothly and its market well-stocked, food prices have fallen and violence eased in the town of 50,000.

But moving inland, the situation deteriorates rapidly, said Marc Aubert, the International Red Cross official running Merca's relief effort.

Thirty people were killed Sunday in fighting in Baidoa, northwest of Mogadishu, after relief food was stolen by looters, according to a radio report from Somalia.

The Red Cross has been airlifting food into Baidoa and other hard-hit desert towns, but that is 10 times more expensive than moving supplies by road. The United Nations' second plan of food arrived in Baidoa on Sunday as part of efforts to get relief to the interior.

The famine has spawned a massive migration from rural areas to the coast, a situation aid agencies hope to stop.

"We don't want to create a dependency syndrome," said Mr. Macleod. "It's very difficult to get people to move back to the land, and then the home-grown food supply never recovers."

The United Nations last week worked out an agreement with the country's two rival warlords interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammad and General Mohammad Farrah Aidid — to send 500 troops to Somalia.

U.S. loans spur Israel to face painful reforms

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's central bank chief warned the new Labour government on Sunday not to use billions of dollars in U.S. loan guarantees to prop up the economy and avoid painful reforms.

"Israel has to implement economic reforms," Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel told Reuters.

The guarantees, negotiated by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and President George Bush during Mr. Rabin's U.S. visit last week, are intended mainly to create jobs for hundreds of thousands of recent immigrants.

"The loan guarantees must by no means be allowed to ease the budget deficit. On the contrary, they are dedicated to one holy cause: Absorbing the immigrants," Mr. Frenkel said.

Washington wants Israel to overhaul its socialist-based economy and embrace free market policies with the money that the guarantees will allow the Jewish state to borrow at lower interest rates.

Problems facing Mr. Rabin when he was taking office last month include record unemployment of 12 per cent and sluggish growth.

Mr. Frenkel, who discussed the Bush-Rabin agreement with the cabinet on Sunday, said the guarantees would raise foreign currency to enable the private sector to undertake massive investment projects.

"The only consideration that the entrepreneur should face now is finding the right projects and carrying them out," he said. "This is and has been the role of the loan guarantees."

Opposition leaders say the government will use part of the guarantees to bail out financially ailing party-affiliated institutions, like the bankrupt Kupat Holim health fund, rather than insisting on intensive reforms.

Energy Minister Amnon Rubenstein said the Kupat Holim case was an important test of the cabinet's will for reforms.

"If the government, God forbid, will funnel money into Kupat Holim... it's a sign that everything is just as it was."

Mr. Rubenstein said the debate on the guarantees was "psychologically extremely important, because every minister who spoke felt the need to get on the road to a liberal economy, free of all the suffocating bureaucratic limitations."



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Turkey says Iraq seeking help on pipeline

ANKARA (AP) — Unable to repair heavy Gulf war damage to a chief oil export pipeline, Iraq has sought Turkish help, the semi-official Anatolia news agency said Sunday.

However, even if the United Nations sanctions were lifted now, the agency said it would take three months to restore the 1,000 kilometre twin pipeline link to the Mediterranean over Turkey.

Anatolia Mete Goknel, the director general of Turkey's state-owned pipeline concern

Botas, said Iraq asked a team of Turkish experts for help during a July 5-12 meeting in Baghdad.

Iraqi officials said the damage was heaviest at a pumping station and parts of the pipelines near Mosul, just south of the 36th Parallel, the agency said.

Turkish experts were not taken to the site to assess the damage, but were reportedly shown photographs and other documents.

The Foreign Ministry was studying the Iraqi request for spare parts and machinery to see if it violated terms of the U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

"We cannot get the pumping station working before three months if we send the required help today," Anatolia quoted Mr. Goknel as saying.

Before Turkey shut them down after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, the twin pipelines carried a total of 1.5 million barrels a day from Kirkuk oilfields to the Turkish Mediterranean terminal of Yumurtalik.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Issue No. 15

Drawing of Aug. 17, 1992

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 75685 Wins JD 30,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 1,200 each wins JD 120 75684 75695 75785 76685 85685 75684 75675 75585 76685 65685
Holder of ticket No. 29720 Wins JD 7,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 700 each wins JD 70 29721 29730 29820 20720 39720 29729 29710 29620 28720 19720
Holder of ticket No. 32828 Wins JD 3,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 400 each wins JD 40 32829 32838 32928 33828 42828 32827 32818 32728 31828 22828
Holder of ticket No. 48258 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20 48259 48268 48358 49258 58258 48257 47248 48158 47258 38258
Holder of ticket No. 10112 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 150 each wins JD 15 10113 10112 10212 11112 20112 10111 10102 10012 19112 00112
Holder of ticket No. 27024 Wins JD 1,200	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 100 each wins JD 10 27025 27034 27124 28024 37024 27023 27014 24924 26024 17024
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Holder of ticket No. 23544 Wins JD 800	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7 23545 23554 23644 24544 33544 23543 23534 23444 22544 13544

Ticket numbers	60158 46839 24446 16653	Win JD 200 each
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9572 7128 8432 Win JD 10 each	3254 5576 Win JD 20 each
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Winners of the grand prizes in the ordinary issue number 14 of August 2, 1992

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Before (the U.S.) agreement (on the loan guarantees to Israel) we were prepared with a detailed, practical and flexible plan for negotiations," said delegate Ghassan Al Khatib. "Now we are more concerned about settlement activity."

Another Jordanian official told the Jordan Times Monday that "time is running out" for the delegations to meet and further coordinate positions "if they were to keep the Aug. 24 schedule in Washington."

Most probably, the meeting will make a review of the most relevant developments in the peace process and leave it to the heads of delegations to coordinate on the ground as the talks get going," he said.

"The meeting will possibly come out with a reaffirmation of the Arab commitment to the principles of the peace process and reiterate the decisions adopted by the last coordination meeting and insist on the non-negotiability of the fundamentals," the official said.

"And it will demand a similar commitment from Israel."

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Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar to International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 8/17/92	TOKYO CLOSE 8/17/92
Swiss Franc	1.9175	1.9145
Deutsche Mark	1.8645	1.8735
Swiss Franc	1.9210	1.9273
French Franc	4.9675	4.9555
Japanese Yen	125.97	126.25
European Currency Unit	1.5885	1.5858

Forward Interest Rates

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.25	5.37	5.37	5.39
Swiss Franc	9.87	10.00	10.06	10.18
Deutsche Mark	9.75	9.81	9.81	9.81
Swiss Franc	7.93	8.18	8.43	8.45
French Franc	10.06	10.21	10.28	10.31
Japanese Yen	4.00	3.87	3.56	3.50
European Currency Unit	10.87	10.97	10.87	10.81

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U.S. Dollar	5.25	5.37	5.37	5.39
Swiss Franc	9.87	10.00	10.06	10.18
Deutsche Mark	9.75	9.81	9.81	9.81
Swiss Franc	7.93	8.18	8.43	8.45
French Franc	10.06	10.21	10.28	10.31
Japanese Yen	4.00	3.87	3.56	3.50
European Currency Unit	10.87	10.97	10.87	10.81

Other Currencies

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.25	5.37	5.37	5.39
Swiss Franc	9.87	10.00	10.06	10.18
Deutsche Mark	9.75	9.81	9.81	9.81
Swiss Franc	7.93	8.18	8.43	8.45
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CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	16/8/92	Close	15/8/92	Close
All-Share	142.27		142.23	
Banking Sector	104.90		104.37	
Insurance Sector	151.86		152.34	
Industry Sector	193.85		194.66	
Services Sector	184.61		185.67	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and Bullion Markets for Monday.

One Sterling	1.9200/10	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1936/41	Canadian dollar
	1.4679/89	Deutsche marks
	1.6540/501	Dutch Guilders
	1.3190/200	Swiss francs
	30.22/26	Belgian francs
	4.9725/75	French francs
	1114/1115	Italian lire
	126.26/31	Japanese yen
	5.3430/80	Swedish crowns
	5.7850/900	Norwegian crowns
	5.6550/600	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	\$336.80/\$337.30	

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

COUNTRY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	285	2.850	2.850	2.850
JORDAN POSTAL BANK	25,161	2.500	2.500	2.500
THE JORDAN BANK	156	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN DEVELOPMENT BANK	12,775	2.100	2.100	2.100
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	9,995	2.200	2.200	2.200
JORDAN COMMERCIAL BANK	1,291	2.940	2.940	2.940
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	110,620	1.310	1.290	1.240
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	185,158	1.260	1.240	1.270
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	129,777	1.480	1.430	1.310
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	409,045	4.840	4.700	4.360
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	17,100	17.100	17.100	17.100
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	14,410	14.400	14.400	14.400
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	23,000	115.000	114.900	115.100
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	40,000	2.400	2.400	2.400
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	21,343	2.640	2.550	2.560
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	1,244	2.900	2.900	2.900
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	5,292	3.090	2.940	2.940
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	103,031	2.860	2.750	2.560
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	830	2.650	2.650	2.650
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	1,450	1.500	1.450	1.450
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	1,001	2.300	2.300	2.300
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	900	3.500	3.400	3.600
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	1,284	3.300	3.280	3.290
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	33,415	4.380	4.350	4.410
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	33,299	1.310	1.290	1.290
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	202,013	0.580	0.570	0.580
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	2,720	1.000	0.980	0.990
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	13,812	0.930	0.920	0.930
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	8,563	0.670	0.650	0.650
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	12,241	1.810	1.800	1.810
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	48,193	2.470	2.420	2.410
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	77,644	7.500	7.350	7.340
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	11,598	9.460	9.250	9.250
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	13,128	5.790	5.700	5.750
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	302,188	5.400	5.180	5.190
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	16,314	6.500	6.500	6.500
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	61,777	3.640	3.580	3.670
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	2,135	8.700	8.600	8.600
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	10,650	6.000	4.750	4.880
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	5,395	0.740	0.730	0.720
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	2,675	5.100	5.350	5.350
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	48,780	3.550	3.600	3.600
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	2,730	2.670	2.600	2.600
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	244,015	1.180	1.130	1.070
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	2,827	0.580	0.570	0.580
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	24,023	13.000	12.750	12.800
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	22,783	1.750	1.650	1.620
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	4,460	3.500	3.550	3.420
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	1,855	1.110	1.060	1.040
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	10,742	3.000	2.950	2.940
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	2,450	2.460	2.450	2.450
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	7,763	0.660	0.570	0.600
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	184,411	3.740	3.690	3.690
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	30,310	1.300	1.280	1.290
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	35,750	0.520	0.500	0.520
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	225,000	4.910	4.890	4.770
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	345,900	2.220	2.140	2.150
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT & TRADE	6,000	8.000	8.000	8.000

Euro Disney expects loss despite high attendance

PARIS (R) — Euro Disney SCA expects to lose money for the year to Sept. 30 although 3.6 million people had visited its "magic kingdom" Theme park since it opened in April.

Euro Disney, which is 49 per cent owned by Walt Disney Co. of the United States, said the opening performance of its park 32 kilometres east of Paris had been better than that of other Walt Disney parks around the world.

But its chief financial officer, John Forsgren, told Reuters that an imbalance between costs and revenues was responsible for the loss that the company expected for its fiscal 1991/92 year.

"Attendance is very good by any measure," Mr. Forsgren said in a telephone interview. "While attendance is very strong, our cost levels do require adjustment for the current revenue level."

"During the course of this opening year, we had to gear up costs for any eventuality, including extremely high levels of attendance," he said.

Japan brewers head for overseas markets

TOKYO (R) — Major Japanese beer makers are hoping to quench their thirst for profits by boosting their market shares in the United States, Europe and Asia.

At present, Japanese exports account for a small fraction of the brew quaffed around the world. Japan's four biggest brewers, Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd., Asahi Breweries Ltd., Sapporo Breweries Ltd. and Suntory Ltd., export about 30,000 kilolitres of beer each year, but world beer consumption is well over 100 million kilolitres, according to the Brewers' Association of Japan.

Tops on the Japan brewers' list of targets is the United States, where total beer consumption and imports' share of the market are both high.

While Germans top the world in per capita beer consumption, the total amount of beer consumed annually in the United States is about twice as much as in Germany, according to the brewers' association.

"As the imported beer market is big in the United States, we will continue to give top priority to the U.S. market," said Mizuo Samuro, director in charge of international beer business at Kirin Breweries.

Imported beer accounted for four to five per cent of the 22.7 million kilolitres Americans drank in 1990. Imports are about two per cent of the 6.6 million kilolitres Japan market.

Overseas, Japanese beer has been sold mainly to Japanese restaurants or oriental supermarkets, but that is changing.

Bush aides fan out to sell new continental free trade pact

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. officials have launched a campaign to sell the free agreement reached last week between the United States, Mexico and Canada, saying it would spur American exports and create jobs.

Opponents have claimed it would cost jobs, as well as further pollute the already dirty U.S.-Mexican border.

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills said the agreement "will create opportunity for businesses, and assuredly jobs and better-paying jobs for the American worker."

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.), William Reilly, said "this is the most environmentally sensitive, the 'greenest' trade agreement ever negotiated anywhere."

And the Commerce Department issued a report showing U.S. states that benefit from trade with Mexico were not just those in the southwest, but also those in the northeast and midwest, the heart of much opposition to the agreement.

They were commenting on the agreement reached Wednesday after 14 months of negotiations and announced by President George Bush in a White House ceremony.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), to take effect Jan. 1, 1994, will end trading barriers between the three nations and form a free trade zone of 360 million people generating goods and services worth \$6 trillion a year.

Barriers would fall in trade ranging from fruits and vegetables to cars and financial services.

But it has to be approved by the U.S. Congress, and there is some strong opposition there.

The administration's efforts were the first of many to come to try to convince Americans — and congressmen — the NAFTA would create jobs, increase company profits and make the United States more competitive worldwide.

But lawmakers from big U.S. manufacturing states say the lure of low Mexican wages and Mexico's lax enforcement of environmental laws would prompt many factories to move south.

Ms. Hills, in a speech to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as well as in a television interview, said Mexico was a fast-growing importer, and with free trade U.S. exports — and the jobs they create — would surge.

"Six hundred thousand Americans owe their jobs to these sales to Mexico and we estimated that by 1995 over one million Americans will owe their jobs to trade with Mexico," she said.

"Jobs connected with trade pay 17 per cent more than jobs in our overall economy," she pointed out.

Recognising that in a net gain of jobs some jobs would be lost, Ms. Hills said the administration would ask Congress for a job-retraining programme at the same time it submitted the pact for congressional approval, expected early next year.

Mr. Reilly said at the chamber and at a news conference later that while Mexico had been behind in environmental protection, it was fast catching up.

He said the trade pact gave each side the right to set its own environmental standards and to block entry of any goods not meeting its own health, safety or environmental standards.

Ms. Hills, Mr. Reilly and others have also noted that Mexico and the United States, outside the trade agreement, have set up a programme to clean up the Rio Grande border with Mexico committing \$460 million to the effort.

Elsewhere Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady told a news conference U.S. financial services companies would reap major gains from the agreement.

"This will provide American banks, insurance companies and securities firms with new opportunities in a financial market that is \$330 billion in size and growing," he said.

Deputy Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman told a news conference the free trade agreement should push up U.S. farm exports to Mexico by \$2 billion in 15 years.

The NAFTA agreement, hailed by President Bush as the start of a new era for his continent, has been greeted with suspicion on the other side of the globe.

Japan's major fear is that the agreement will raise the required local content of cars to qualify for tariff cuts from the present 50 per cent agreed by the United States and Canada.

Less industrialised countries in east Asia said they were worried that the signing of the agreement would prompt U.S. companies to invest closer to home.

Tokyo trade leaders said NAFTA could mean Japanese products, especially cars, would face discrimination.

Government and business officials said the pact could be arbitrarily implemented and might not be consistent with the principles of free trade which countries like the United States espoused.

"Some of our concerns about the trade agreement have not been satisfied," said a ministry of international trade and industry official. "I feel some disappointment."

Officials said concern about NAFTA could be bad news for Japanese investment in North America and especially in Mexico. Mexico had hoped its low wage costs would be an incentive for Japanese investors wanting to sell in the United States.

Singapore, a major beneficiary of U.S. investment, fears the trade pact could lead North American businessmen to divert investment and trade from south-



Carla Hills

east Asia to Mexico, government officials there said.

"Although both the single European market and NAFTA are claimed to be non-protectionist, they will cause their businessmen to look inward at least for the short term," Lim Boon Heng, senior minister of state for trade and industry, said in a speech.

"This could also mean slower growth for other countries, including Singapore," he added.

Malaysia and Thailand, which have enjoyed an investment boom in recent years fuelled by Japanese and U.S. multinational firms, are also likely to be hit by NAFTA, said George Abraham, secretary-general of the Singapore Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Thailand was concerned that Mexico might start producing the kind of goods it currently exports to the United States and Canada.

Exports that might be affected included textiles, apparel and rubber products, a Thai foreign ministry official said.

"One solution might be for Thailand to invest in Mexico, but we don't know the details of the rule of origin under the (NAFTA) agreement yet," the official said.

Hong Kong's deputy secretary for trade and industry, Denise Yue, said it was too early to assess the impact of the agreement.

"Hypothetically speaking, one can see a positive side to NAFTA as well. It may encourage Hong Kong businessmen to invest in Mexico," she said.

"But the downside is if the agreement is perceived as a trading bloc then members who are not party to the agreement may find trade with the three countries affected," she pointed out.

Taiwanese officials and economists said the agreement was both an opportunity for local companies to expand investment in the North American market and a threat to local exporters because the region could be protectionist.

Wu Hsing-Chiang, head of the economics ministry's department monitoring investment in the United States, urged local companies to step up investments in the NAFTA region to avoid being squeezed out of the market.

Syria's oil output capacity tops 1/2m barrels daily

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria's oil production capacity has topped 500,000 barrels per day (b/d) with the commissioning of a new oilfield near the central city of Dayr Al Zawr, officials and oil industry sources said Monday.

The Ghalban oilfield with a production capacity of 20,000 to 25,000 b/d was inaugurated by new oil minister, Nadj Nabulsi, in a ceremony on Sunday, they said.

Syria's previous capacity was about 485,000 b/d.

Ghalban, north-east of Syria's biggest oilfield Omar, was developed by Al Furat Company, which is comprised of Syrian Petroleum Company (SPC) and Shell, Diminex and Pecten. Omar produces around 100,000 b/d.

Ghalban is the latest in a series of oilfield of extra light crude discovered near Dayr Al Zawr in the early 1980s. The discoveries more than doubled Syria's production.

Syria, a member of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), began production of heavy crude from its oilfields in the north-east of the country in the late 1960s. Heavy crude production now stands at 160,000 b/d.

Syria stopped importing oil in 1988 and began to export large amounts of light crude in addition to the heavy crude aimed mainly at the spot market.

Oil industry sources say Syria's exports range from 200,000 and 220,000 b/d at present.

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U.N. convoy returns safely from Gorazde Yugoslav foreign minister warns intervention would be bloody

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vukobratovic has warned that foreign military intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina would have bloody consequences.

Mr. Vukobratovic was commenting in a Belgrade television interview Sunday night on recent U.N. resolutions, which included the use of force to safeguard the delivery of humanitarian relief in war-torn Bosnia.

"These two U.N. resolutions obviously increase the real danger of the foreign military factor being brought into the Yugoslav crisis," he said.

In the current "war of nerves," pressure was being put on Bosnian Serbs, and on Yugoslavia — now comprising just Serbia and Montenegro — to gain "concessions" through the use of threats rather than force, Mr. Vukobratovic said.

He said he expected the pressure would increase ahead of an international conference on Yugoslavia in London on Aug. 26.

"All those who know what is happening in Bosnia... are aware that the deployment of any military forces would be considered by the participants in this war as military support for the other side," the minister said.

"This could not happen without consequences that in conditions of civil war are always bloody, serious, and very uncertain," he said.

A United Nations convoy has

delivered the first relief supplies to the Bosnian town of Gorazde and returned safely to Sarajevo after braving gunfire and mines.

The vehicles, brought in by French and Ukrainian U.N. peace troops, were greeted by residents in Gorazde's Central Square with tears and flowers Saturday. They got back to U.N. controlled Sarajevo Airport in the early hours of Monday.

A Serb commander along the convoy's route at Rogatica accused Bosnian soldiers of using the convoy as cover for an ambush Sunday in which 10 Serb soldiers were killed.

"Because of you we could not fire back at them," said the commander, who called himself Rajko.

The war in the ex-Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina has claimed thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of lives, pitting Muslims and Croats against Serbs opposed to the area's independence, which was internationally recognised in April.

The convoy had to be rescued by U.N. forces on its return journey Sunday after encountering landmines in treacherous mountain territory where Serb irregular forces have slowly tightened the noose on Croat and Muslim positions.

Gorazde, 60 kilometres south east of Sarajevo, has been under a Serb siege for four months.

A U.N. spokesman in Zagreb said the two-day mission had delivered supplies to some 70,000 people trapped in Gorazde.

But U.N. sources with the convoy said Gorazde's pre-war population of 35,000 had swollen to about 50,000 as Muslims fled from neighbouring villages.

Zagreb Radio quoted Gorazde authorities as saying Serb artillery killed two people and wounded 12 in the town after the convoy left and that a part of the U.N. relief supplies had been destroyed. This could not be confirmed independently.

Fighting was reported Sunday in many parts of Bosnia but local journalists said the region's devastated capital Sarajevo had been relatively quiet for the past two days.

Provincial flashpoints included the central town of Jajce, where reports from both sides Serb forces launched a fierce attack. The Serbs denied a Zagreb Radio report that they had bombed Jajce from the air.

A fierce artillery and infantry clash just north of Sarajevo raged all Sunday, according to the Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug.

Belgrade Television said a Serb commander had threatened to shoot down planes which he said were dropping weapons to Muslim fighters in the Sarajevo area.

An earlier bid to get food to Gorazde last month failed when a U.N. convoy hit a landmine and

had to be rescued.

This time, 46 tonnes of food and medicine were unloaded in the eastern Muslim town, whose residents and refugees have no access to food, water and electricity under the Serbian siege.

But French combat engineers had to come from Sarajevo to detonate mines and rescue the column about 40 kilometres along its return route from Gorazde. The journey was delayed by more than 20 hours by the incident.

Ron Redmond, a spokesman for the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Croatia, said neither side in the fighting cooperated to clear the mines.

Gorazde's beleaguered residents were pale from months of hiding indoors, and many showed the emotional strain of living under constant Serbian sniper, shell and mortar fire.

Nowhere was Gorazde's plight more desperate than in the Isak Samokovija Hospital, where 60 patients were receiving rudimentary care in a building smashed by mortars and without running water or electricity, and hardly any anaesthetics.

"Conditions here are disgusting," said Major Lawrence Linden, a French medical officer attached to the U.N. convoy. "I have seen this in Africa, but never in Europe."

"The team was very, very warmly welcomed by the people of Gorazde," said Mr. Redmond.



Shevardnadze tells Georgians: Get set to fight 'evil forces'

SUKHUMI, Georgia (R) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze told his people Monday to be ready to fight "forces of evil" if tensions in the Caucasus erupted into full-scale conflict.

Mr. Shevardnadze said up to 40 people had been killed in fighting between Georgian troops and rebels in the breakaway Western region of Abkhazia which has confronted him with the worst crisis of his five months in power.

In a radio interview, he warned of dangerous consequences if "forces of evil" — Mr. Shevardnadze's term for supporters of toppled ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia — joined the conflict against his government.

"I want our people to know we must be ready for everything. Maybe we will even have to fight, as forces of evil are all around us. These forces can cause us great difficulties," the former Soviet foreign minister said.

"I will do all I can to secure the unity of Georgia. I will be first in the ranks of fighters for every handful of Georgian soil."

The former Soviet Republic of Georgia has been racked for the past year by ethnic and political conflicts, which exploded again in Abkhazia last week when Mr. Shevardnadze sent troops there to search for rebels who had kidnapped his interior minister.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia's ally Dzokhar Dudayev, the maverick leader of southern Russia's breakaway Chechen region, has placed his forces on full alert to help repulse Georgian "aggression."

In Sukhumi, centre of the recent fighting, looting broke out overnight after Georgian and Abkhazian forces disengaged Sunday in line with a ceasefire agreement.

Bands of armed robbers plundered state and private shops and sporadic gunfire could be heard. Local people said the shooting was between rival Georgian and Abkhazian factions.

Mr. Shevardnadze said local gangs were "terrorising" the population and he was considering introducing a curfew. Residents said they feared the return of Georgian forces.

"We have already seen these Georgian National Guards. It's really terrible. They will finish this city," said Maria, an elderly woman.

Russian residents of Sukhumi, a popular Black Sea resort, quailed by the sea front for the second day to be evacuated on passenger ships. They took with them bundles of luggage, small pieces of furniture and sometimes pets.

"I want to go home. I will never come here again," said Masha Silantjeva, a 10-year-old Russian girl clutching the family parrot Totosha as she waited with her parents.

"I was afraid for my mother and my father because I was sitting in my room and they were leaving the room to find food for me," she added.

Some local Abkhazians expressed anger with Russian President Boris Yeltsin for failing to take their side against the Georgians.

"Yeltsin has betrayed us. He decided to stay neutral," said Vitaly Drabsh, an Abkhazian aged about 35.

"He is good to his people, taking them away from here. But I know the moment the last Russian leaves Sukhumi, Georgians will come to kill us all."

Abkhazia, a small Black Sea region which grows fruit, tea and tobacco but is chiefly renowned for its beaches, angered Georgia last month by restoring a 1925 constitution describing itself as independent.

Abkhazians, a distinct Caucasian ethnic group, are outnumbered by Georgians even in Abkhazia itself.

"I call on the Abkhazian leadership to enter a dialogue. I see no questions that Abkhazians and Georgians cannot resolve," Mr. Shevardnadze said. "I do not want the unity of Georgia to be achieved by fire and sword."

In another tense area of the former Soviet Union, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian urged a special parliamentary session Monday following several demonstrations in the capital of Yerevan urging his resignation.

At least 44 people were killed in weekend clashes when Azerbaijanis attacked Armenian border villages in renewed fighting over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, news agency reports said.

Vietnam, Laos say Cambodia peace plan must work

HANOI (R) — Vietnam and Laos have urged all sides to implement the United Nations peace plan for Cambodia, warning that violations could threaten stability in the whole region, the official Vietnam News Agency reported.

Vietnam and Laos wanted to see a peaceful, independent and non-aligned Cambodia, the agency said, quoting a joint statement issued at the end of a visit to Laos by Vietnamese Communist Party General-Secretary Do Muoi Sunday.

The two countries urged scrupulous implementation of the peace plan for Cambodia reached in Paris last October.

"They hold that any violation of any provisions of that agreement would undermine the process of peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia, and threaten peace and stability in Cambodia and the region as a whole," the statement said.

Under the U.N.-sponsored plan, the Phnom Penh government and three guerrilla groups have formed a national reconciliation council, while U.N. peacekeepers are trying to disarm the warring factions and organise elections.

But the Khmer Rouge, the most powerful guerrilla group, has refused to disarm and commit its troops to cantonments.

Before being ousted by invading Vietnamese troops in early 1979, the extreme radical Khmer Rouge was responsible for the deaths of a million Cambodians during its four-year reign of terror.

The joint Vietnam-Laos statement made no direct reference to the Khmer Rouge.

The Khmer Rouge accuses Vietnam of keeping large numbers of troops in Cambodia. U.N. peacekeepers have found no evidence of this.

Vietnam and Laos said they would continue to cooperate with the U.N. plan.

The two governments, emerging from isolation, also expressed "profound satisfaction" at the development of their relations with China and south east Asian countries.

Hanoi and Vientiane had taken an important step towards building better relations with the six-member Association of South East Asian states by agreeing to ASEAN's treaty of amity and cooperation in Manila in July, their statement said.

Accession to the treaty is a first step towards eventually joining ASEAN, which comprises Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Meanwhile, the Khmer Rouge guerrillas, making a rare mention of the man who orchestrated their 1975-79 reign of terror in Cambodia, said Monday that Pol Pot had definitely retired.

Column 80000

"Alien involved with farrow's adopted daughter"

NEW YORK (AP) — Film director Woody Allen and actress Mia Farrow broke up over an affair he is having with her 21-year-old adopted daughter, it was reported Monday. Farrow's mother, actress Maureen O'Sullivan, and others close to the couple told the Daily News and New York Post that the 56-year-old filmmaker has been involved for seven months with Soon-Yi Previn. Soon-Yi has "been foolish and misguided about an old man," O'Sullivan told the Post. "I mean, he's old enough to be her grandfather." Allen's press agent, Leslee Dart, said, "In an effort to maintain Mr. Allen's privacy, I cannot comment." Allen and Farrow, who has appeared in 13 of his movies, had been a couple since 1980 but never married and lived apart. Last week, Allen filed for custody of the son they had together and the two children they adopted. Farrow, 47, has 11 children, adopted and biological. Several, including Soon-Yi Previn, are Korean-born. She was adopted by Farrow and her second husband, conductor Andre Previn. Some of Allen's films deal with May-December relationships. In Manhattan in 1979, Allen plays a 42-year-old writer who has an affair with a 17-year-old prep school student. In his upcoming *Husbands and Wives*, Allen plays a professor who has an affair with a college-age student.

Filipino anti-crime boss arrests police at news conference

MANILA (R) — Philippine Vice-President Joseph Estrada personally arrested two high-ranking police officers for alleged links to kidnap gangs Monday after tricking them into appearing at a news conference at his home.

In scenes reminiscent of his days as a film actor playing the role of a vigilante, Mr. Estrada shocked the two officers by producing a surprise witness against them — a policeman who had confessed to being a kidnap gang member.

"Right now they are ordered arrested," Mr. Estrada said after patrolman Nonito Arile identified Major Jose Pring and Major Timoteo Zarzal as members of a syndicate engaged in kidnapping Filipino-Chinese businessmen in Manila.

Up to 30 rich Filipinos were kidnapped between January and June this year in Manila and the provinces, compared with 50 in 1991, police said. They were released after their families paid ransoms running into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Officials said kidnapping had become a flourishing business because relatives of victims refused to cooperate with police, fearing retaliation.

Mr. Zarzal refused to talk to reporters while Maj. Pring vehemently denied accusations against him.

Mr. Estrada arrested the two officers in his capacity as chief of the presidential anti-crime commission, a new body formed by President Fidel Ramos to end the crime wave in the capital.

The arrests of Maj. Zarzal and Maj. Pring, a veteran police officer whose highly publicised exploits against crime gangs have been turned into a box-office film, brought to 14 the number of policemen linked to kidnap syndicates.

Maj. Pring and Maj. Zarzal, the two highest ranked officers linked to the gangs, appeared to have no inkling that officer Arile, who earlier surrendered to Mr. Estrada, would be at the news conference.

Mr. Estrada said he had simply told the two officers to come over for a meeting with reporters.

Maj. Pring was head of the Manila Police Anti-Kidnapping Task Force until he was relieved of his job last month after a scandal over police involvement in kidnapping broke out.

"There will be many more (arrests) to come. There will be no let-up. We will spare no one in our drive against syndicated crime," Mr. Estrada told reporters.

The arrests took place a day after National Police Chief Cesar Nazareno resigned over police involvement in criminal activities.

Gen. Ramos, at a news conference Monday, denied newspaper reports that he had fired Gen. Nazareno.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Bomb kills 3 navy staff in Pakistan

KARACHI (R) — A bomb exploded on a busy jetty in the southern Pakistan port of Karachi Monday, killing three navy personnel and injuring 43 other people, police and doctors said. The bomb went off at the boating basin at Kemari, near Karachi port and naval oil installations, where naval personnel and others were waiting for launches to nearby Manora Island, witnesses said. The three dead men were sitting on a concrete bench while most of the injured were standing near a railing overlooking the sea when the bomb in a paper bag exploded, they said. "At least five people have been detained for questioning," a police official said. The explosion could be heard some distance away. Police said on one had claimed responsibility. Doctors said at least nine of the 43 injured were seriously hurt. The injured included eight navy personnel.

Pakistan sacks hundreds of policemen

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Pakistan has sacked 687 policemen in troubled Sind province for their association with criminals, a government statement said. It said recent inquiries found these policemen involved in criminal cases or mixing up with criminals. They were "discharged or dismissed from service." The action follows orders by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to cleanse the Police Department in the province where an army-led crackdown against crime was launched last May. "The scrutiny of more cases is going on and as soon as the records are finalised, the personnel involved in the criminal activities or linked with criminals would be removed," the statement said.

Pakistan, India start talks on ties

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian and Pakistani officials began talks Monday aimed at improving deeply mistrustful relations worsened by a revolt in Indian-ruled Kashmir and mutual accusations of torturing diplomats. A delegation from Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, led by Foreign Secretary Shahryar Khan, met Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao before beginning talks with their Indian counterparts, officials said. The Press Trust of India quoted Mr. Khan as saying the meeting was cordial. He said he had handed over a "positive and constructive" letter from Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif but gave no details. It is the first meeting of the foreign secretaries, the most senior civil servants, for more than 10 months. The two prime ministers have met four times in the interim but those talks made little or no difference to poor relations.

U.K. police deny soldiers sacrificed

BELFAST (R) — A claim that two British soldiers who were beaten and killed at an IRA funeral were sacrificed to protect an undercover operation has been categorically denied by police in Northern Ireland. The Royal Ulster Constabulary took the unusual step of issuing a fortnight denial after a Belfast newspaper began serialising excerpts from a book by journalist Martin Dillon. Security forces have always maintained that two British corporals strayed by mistake into the path of an Irish Republican Army funeral in March 1988. In televised scenes that shocked viewers worldwide, the two were taken from their car and brutally beaten before being taken away by the IRA and shot dead. Mr. Dillon claims the two soldiers were part of an undercover surveillance unit monitoring a Republican suspect. He said police twice wanted to rescue the soldiers but were denied permission.

Chinese official visits Taiwan

TAIPEI (R) — The vice-president of China's Red Cross arrived in Taiwan Monday, the most senior mainland representative to visit the island since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949. Sun Boqin is making a one-week visit at the invitation of Taiwan's Red Cross to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation between the two organisations. Hsu Tai-an, a spokesman for Taiwan's Red Cross, said Mr. Sun also wanted to thank Taiwanese residents for donating Taiwan dollars one billion (\$40 million) to flood victims in China last year.

IRA publishes dead man's 'confession'

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — The Irish Republican Army has published a confession allegedly made by a 22-year-old man who was killed by the guerrillas last week. "I am making this statement voluntarily. I have not been under any duress and I have not been threatened in any way," said the statement attributed to Robin Hill, whose body was found in an alley in Belfast last Tuesday. Mr. Hill had been abducted from his home in Coalisland, 40 miles (65 kms) west of Belfast. Police said he had been shot pointblank twice in the head. His mouth was taped shut and his hands were bound with wire behind his back. His alleged statement was published in the Aug. 13 edition of Republican News, a weekly paper published in Dublin which reflects the IRA's views.

ANC denies seeking talks with Zimbabwe

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The African National Congress (ANC) denied Monday reports plans to discuss strategy with Zimbabwe before a possible resumption of stalled democracy talks in South Africa.

ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said the report from Harare quoting political sources, one of whom said ANC officials were expected in Zimbabwe Wednesday, was "absolutely untrue."

It said top members of the ANC and the Pan Africanist Congress wanted guidance from President Robert Mugabe's government on the line to take in constitutional talks with the white minority government.

"We have no knowledge of that planned visit or consultations, although we have respect for Mr. Mugabe," Mr. Marcus said.

Meanwhile, Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Mangosuthu Buthezi urged Nelson Mandela Sunday to share platforms with him in speaking out against political violence in South Africa.

Party convention is do-or-die for beleaguered Bush

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — George Bush's Republicans gathered Monday in an atmosphere strained by warlike crisis with Iraq, trying to focus on a convention that could be the salvation of Mr. Bush's presidency or the beginning of its end.

Analysts on all sides agreed Mr. Bush can still stop the political beamorriahing that has dropped him far behind Democrat Bill Clinton — provided he starts right now to convince voters he is a "born again" new Bush: Full of fight, brimming with ideas, ready to stage a come-from-behind rally, beyond anything seen in modern U.S. politics.

His big chance is here: at the four-day Republican national convention in a vast indoor sports festooned in red, white and blue, where the party will renominate him and vice President Dan Quayle Wednesday. Mr. Bush is seeking a second four-year term in the White House in the Nov. 3 election.

There will be days of Democrat-bashing oratory from the likes of ex-President Ronald Reagan and Mr. Bush's ever-popular wife, Barbara.

There was bad news, however, in a New York Times/CBS News opinion poll that indicated a big majority of voters believe real change is needed in the way things are going in the country and that Mr. Bush may not be the man to bring it about.

The findings said only 15 per cent of those polled felt that reelecting Mr. Bush would bring that change while 63 per cent saw that possibility under a Clinton presidency. Of those polled, 92 per cent said real change was needed in the country while only seven per cent said they were

satisfied.

The poll found that Mr. Clinton still has a 17-point lead over Mr. Bush, leading the president by 52 points to 35.

The president, due in Houston later Monday, promised his revival will bloom on this stage. He vowed in a convention-eye interview with Time magazine that "I'm going to win — nobody believes that but it's the truth."

He added on ABC-TV: "People will come to their senses and... they're going to say, 'George Bush has demonstrated that he has the courage and the knowledge and the trust to sit in that Oval Office.'"

Or as campaign strategist Ken Duberstein put it, people will turn to "good old reliable George Bush" after a two-fisted campaign Mr. Bush sides have dubbed "the September storm."

More immediately on America's mind was the possibility of an "August surprise" — a rumoured U.S.-led air attack on Iraq that could change the whole political equation.

In the latest strange twist in what Mr. Bush calls "a crazy political year," his fortunes were clouded on convention eve not by Mr. Clinton or the Democrats but by Iraq.

The president, trying to focus attention on the big Republican show, had to deal instead with a future over reported U.S. plans to force a confrontation over Iraq's defiance of Gulf war ceasefire terms — said to admit he was holding open a possibility of military retaliation no matter how that might look politically.

What galled Bush was that a New York Times report of a secret provocation plan, attributed to unidentified officials,

said the confrontation would begin Monday and quoted officials as saying the timing "appeared calculated to give President Bush a boost during the Republican national convention...."

"The campaign and the convention have nothing to do with this," Mr. Bush retorted angrily at an impromptu White House news conference. "I totally deny we're trying to pick a fight for political purposes."

As for the New York Times report of possible imminent air raids on Baghdad, he snapped: "There's been a clear breach of security... I was shocked to read all this."

The open possibility of a sudden military strike blew away what little gaily Republican leaders had been able to stir up around his anxiety-ridden convention, and it left Mr. Bush to lament, "from now on some will accuse us of political opportunism for every move that I make."

He already had headaches that made this event and its prime-time television limelight as crucial a political turning point as any recent U.S. presidential convention has been.

Voters disgruntled over economic hardship, unemployment and general dissatisfaction with the drift of the country have put him about 20 points behind Mr. Clinton in the polls, give or take a few points from poll to poll.

No White House candidate in the history of polling has overcome that big a deficit at this stage of a campaign. Even Harry Truman, architect of the most storied American political comeback of all, was never quite so far behind Thomas Dewey in their epic 1948 campaign.

Meanwhile, the women's vote

is seen as decisive in the coming U.S. presidential election.

But the rival parties seem to be going after two very different kinds of women.

The Republicans will give star billing to President George Bush's wife, Barbara, possibly the United States' most famous grandmother, a white-haired embodiment of the party's family values flag.

If there was a symbol for Democrats when they held their convention, it may have been Carol Mosely Braun, a black single parent who turned her resentment over the Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill controversy into a Senate candidacy.

There could hardly be a more clear-cut issue dividing the two parties than abortion.

The Democrats at their convention came down plainly for abortion rights. The Republicans wrote a platform statement calling for a constitutional amendment banning abortions.

The issue touches raw nerves among women across the political spectrum, and even the leaders of both parties are not completely comfortable with the dilemma it presents.

Barbara Bush helped confuse the party's stand by last week suggesting that the issue didn't belong in the platform.

Pro-choice Republican women have threatened a floor fight at the convention over the party's refusal to include the right to abortion. More than just a public relations move, political strategists see the issue of choice as a serious one and theorise that the abortion issue could alienate voters and threaten Mr. Bush's reelection chances.

Screaming New Zealander goes for the record

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (R) — A New Zealand electrician who can scream louder than hi-fi stereo systems and who practices at heavy metal rock concerts unofficially broke the world screaming record Monday. Environmental health unit officials measured the screams of Harry Schuler, 24, at 130 decibels, two decibels higher than the previous record set by an Australian in 1988. Mr. Schuler must now wait to hear whether he has beaten the Australian when distance from the microphone is taken into account. His manager has written to the Guinness Book of Records. Mr. Schuler said he was not worried by possible side-effects suffered by other screaming heavy metal fans, such as loss of voice or damaged vocal chords. At a recent party Mr. Schuler was able to scream louder than the stereo and has been clearly heard above public address systems at heavy metal concerts.

Miracle of flight mostly eludes British birdmen

BOGNOR REGIS, England (R) — They came, they jumped, they generally did not fly. Contestants at the annual birdman rally in the southern English resort of Bognor Regis hoped to achieve the miracle of man-powered flight by launching themselves off the pier in a series of unlikely flying machines. Instead, all they got was a practical, and wet, lesson in the effects of gravity. Holidaymakers gathered along the seawall to watch propeller-powered bicycles, a man dressed as a doughnut and a one-third scale replica of a World War II Lancaster bomber hurl themselves into the water. Why do it? "Because it's there," said Jamie "Freefall" Tallow, equipped with a child's bicycle and a golf umbrella. "It's high, there's water underneath and you don't get hurt when you fall." One entrant, billing himself as "the hummingbird fungus," said he hoped to fly his winged bicycle as far as the town of Littlehampton, eight miles (12 km) away. In the event, despite the assistance of a propeller mounted on his crash helmet, the "mushroom man" only got as far as the rescue boat waiting under the pier.

World's oldest rock art found in Australia

SYDNEY (R) — Rock art dating back 43,000 years has been found in Australia, challenging the popular notion that the first such art arose in Europe, one of the scientists who uncovered the engravings said Monday. The art was found at a remote sheep farm in the Olary region of south Australia, some 300 kilometres northeast of Adelaide. It consists of circles, emu and kangaroo tracks and decorative lines engraved on rock. "It's going to be controversial," said archaeologist Margaret Nobbs of Adelaide's Flinders University, who will detail the find at an international scientific conference on prehistoric art in Cairns, Australia, on Aug. 30. "It's going to turn people's ideas upside down as far as rock art is concerned," she said.